Soredemo Machi ha Mawatteiru

それでも町は廻っている

通称"それ町"

Masakazu Ishiguro
石黒正数

YOUNG KING COMICS

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「関係者を集めてください」その声の主は、高山紫信。尾谷高校の女子高生、四条ノノ子のアパートの大家さんで、下町丸子商店街の名物人物（？）。

ノノ子の住む「下町丸子商店街」と、ノノ子の通う「尾谷高校」を舞台に、ノノ子と個性豊かな仲間たちが繰り広げる、ちょっとミステリアスな日常。

ひょんなことから下町丸子商店街の名物人物（？）、高山紫信さんのアパートに住むことになった、尾谷高校の女子高生、四条ノノ子。

ノノ子の通う尾谷高校には、ちょっと変わった生徒がいっぱい。

ノノ子のクラスメイトで、ミステリ研究会の会長、真田くんの想いは空回りしてばかりだし、ノノ子の親友、ツッソンはやきもきさせられっぱなし。

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そして、

「それでも町は廻っている」

B6判 定価560円(税込)

石黒正数短編集
「Present for me」
B6判 定価570円(税込)

著者近影

11巻は「恐怖それ町」という事で、
怖い話ばかり集めました。
怖くない話もあります。
どれが怖くて、どれが怖くないかは
読んでみないとわかりません。
人生に通じる所があるような
気がしてきました。

11巻は「恐怖それ町」だ！

「長いひもで全員殺す」

「別荘行ってきます」

そして…残されたメモを巡る騒動を歩鳥が解決！

大人気下町メイド喫茶系コメディ、今回はミステリアス満載！

石黒正数

少年画報社

石黒正数、あの小野寺浩二を引き連れ、

プロデューサーとして見参!!!

デラ変態コー

イケメン石黒P

「ソレミテ！」

連載開始！ヤングキングアワーズ！

アワーズ

もちろん、「それ町」も超絶大好評連載中だよ！

それでも町は廻っている⑪巻　石黒正数

歩鳥もビックリ
あっと驚く××～
絶賛連載中
アワーズ
毎月30日発売!!

それでも町は廻っている
11巻いくよ!
来なさい!!
11
11巻お買い上げありがとうございます。もう連載を始めてから8年も経つらしいです。3巻のサンクの話のせいで、サンクの正体を知ってしまった!という当時小学校低学年だった読者さんも、もう今中学生くらいなのかな。まだ読んでくれてるんだろうか…
石黒正数

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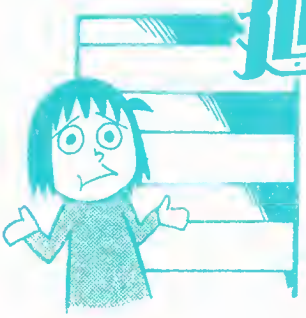
それでも町は廻っている



11

石黒正数
Ishiguro Masakazu

soredemo
machi ha
mawatte
iru
presented by
masakazu ishiguro

歩鳥のクラスメイト 男子編

村田 秀人
むらた ひでひと

高橋 勇人
たかはし ゆうと

黒田 祐樹
くろだ ゆうき

浅井 幸介
あさい こうすけ

横尾 昴
よこお すばる

遠山 尚純
とおやま なおずみ

小柴垣 蓮
こしばがき れん

石野 洋太
いしの ようた

七瀬 影光
ななせ かげみつ

佐藤 晋作
さとう しんさく

小野寺 翔
おのでら しょう

野口 志郎
のぐち しろう

真田 広章
さなだ ひろゆき

加納 清大
かのう せいだい

福本 孝世
ふくもと こうせい

鈴木 隆洋
すずき たかひろ

栗谷 透
くりや とおる

通称"それ町"

それでも町は廻っている

AND YET, THE TOWN MOVES

11

ISHIGURO MASAKAZU
石黒 正数

YOUNG KING COMICS

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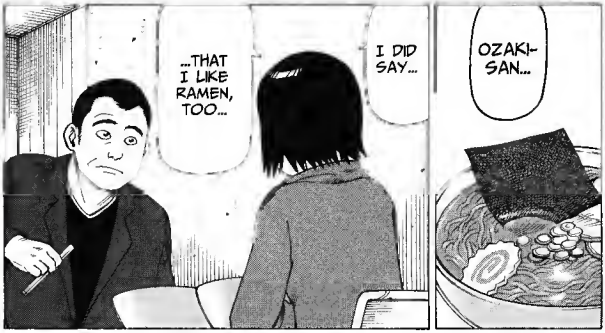
SAY, HOTORI... WHAT'S THAT FLOATING UP THERE IN THE SKY?
※THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION.
NONE OF THE CHAR-ACTERS, HAPPEN-INGS, ETC...
...ARE REAL.

CHAPTER 82 THE FINAL MYSTERY

AWNING: TANPOPO CAFETERIA

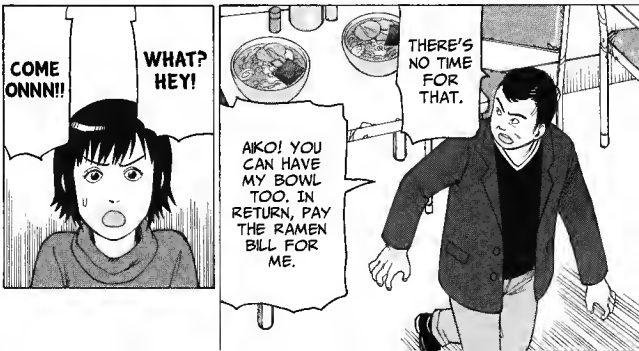
SIGN: MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT



I WON'T TAKE THAT FROM YOU, OZAKI-SAN!
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO FAT, DUMMY.
I PREFER MINE WITH... THICKER NOODLES, AND MORE PORK FAT...
GOOD GRIEF.
ニッコリ SMILE
RIGHT?
LISTEN, WHEN IT COMES TO RAMEN, NOTHING BEATS THE CHINESE-STYLE SOBA MADE BY AN OLD SET-MENU COOK.
...WAIT. WE BOTH LIKE RAMEN...
...BUT TASTES IN RAMEN AREN'T THE SAME...
I WON'T TAKE COMPLAINTS ABOUT RAMEN FROM SOMEONE WHO CAN'T APPRECIATE THIS FLAVOR!
HEY!
I WAS A FOOL TO GET MY HOPES UP ABOUT THIS PLACE JUST BECAUSE WE BOTH LIKE RAMEN.

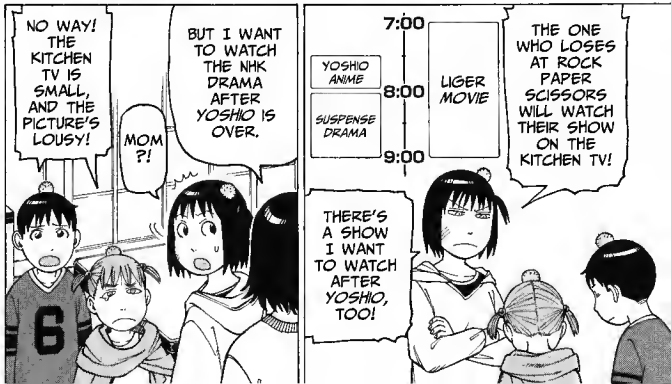
THE WHOLE TIME, WE'VE BEEN WORKING UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE THREE MARTIAL-ARTS STUDENTS MUST BE CONNECTED DUE TO THEIR COMMON HOBBY.
YOU SEE?!
THAT EXPLAINS THE MYSTERY BEHIND OUR CURRENT MURDER CASE!
THAT'S IT!!

HEY... WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? EXPLAIN WHAT'S GOING ON.
THAT'S WHY THERE WAS ONE MYSTERY LEFT AT THE END.
SHOOT... WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE IT SOONER?
BUT IN REALITY, THEIR GOALS, TASTES AND PERSONALITIES AREN'T THE SAME... AND WHY WOULD THEY BE?


COME ONNN!!
WHAT? HEY!
AIKO! YOU CAN HAVE MY BOWL TOO. IN RETURN, PAY THE RAMEN BILL FOR ME.
THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT.

MASKED LIGER THE MOVIE
MASKED LIGER FUNGUS
VS
MASKED LIGER
SHIGURE
I'M GOING TO WATCH MASKED LIGER: THE MOVIE!
YOU COULD WATCH THE LIGER MOVIE ON DVD OR SOMETHING, RIGHT?
BUT MINE'S A SERIES, SO I WON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IF I MISS AN EPISODE.
ANIME DEMONMASTER
YOSHIO
BUT THAT OVERLAPS WITH DEMON-MASTER YOSHIO!
WHY, YOUUUU!!
GAH! STOP BEING SO VIOLENT!!

...RIGHT THERE.
SMUSH
STOP...
THWACK
BAM!!

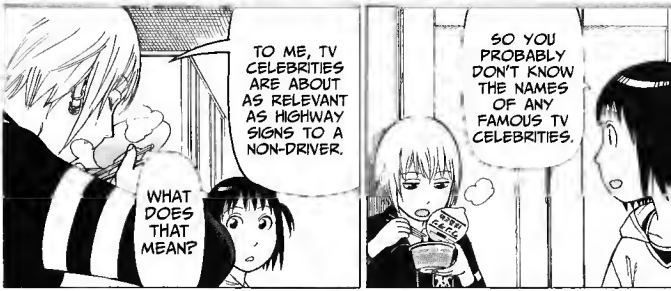

NO WAY! THE KITCHEN TV IS SMALL, AND THE PICTURE'S LOUSY!
MOM?!
BUT I WANT TO WATCH THE NHK DRAMA AFTER YOSHIO IS OVER.
7:00
YOSHIO ANIME
8:00
SUSPENSE DRAMA
9:00
LIGER MOVIE
THE ONE WHO LOSES AT ROCK PAPER SCISSORS WILL WATCH THEIR SHOW ON THE KITCHEN TV!
THERE'S A SHOW I WANT TO WATCH AFTER YOSHIO, TOO!

BUILDING: KAWAI APARTMENTS

WELL, THERE'S THAT, BUT THERE WAS ALSO SUCH A BIG FUSS AT MY HOUSE THAT I'M SORTA TAKING REFUGE, TOO.
...IF YOU'D GO SO FAR AS TO WATCH IT AT SOMEBODY ELSE'S PLACE.
YOU MUST REALLY LIKE THIS SHOW...

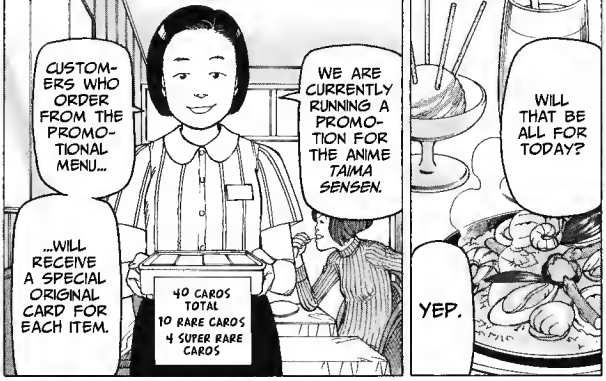
I MOSTLY LISTEN TO CDS...
YOU DON'T HAVE THE TV ON MUCH, SENPAI?
IF I DON'T LET THE TV GET SOME ELECTRICITY OCCASIONALLY, IT MAY STOP WORKING AT ALL AFTER A WHILE.
WELL, I DON'T MIND.

IF THERE'S NOTHING I WANT TO WATCH, WHY BOTHER HAVING IT ON?
SOMETIMES I USE IT FOR VIDEO GAMES.
RAMEN LID: WONTON HARUSAME


TO ME, TV CELEBRITIES ARE ABOUT AS RELEVANT AS HIGHWAY SIGNS TO A NON-DRIVER.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
SO YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW THE NAMES OF ANY FAMOUS TV CELEBRITIES.

OKAY... THAT'S A WEIRD ANALOGY.
BUT THEY WOULDN'T STIR MY HEART AT ALL.
SEEING THEM MIGHT PROMPT THOUGHTS LIKE, "THAT'S A SLOW SPEED LIMIT," OR, "YOU CAN'T TURN HERE?!"

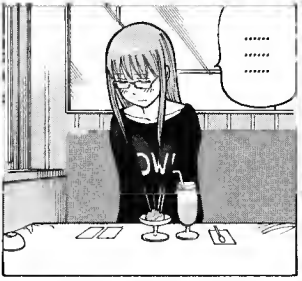
SHRIKE
DID YOU NEED SOME ADVICE?
A FEW DAYS LATER...
SIGN: RESTAURANT SHRIKE
I WONDER HOW PAELLA AND RISOTTO DIFFER...
MENU
NOT REALLY... I JUST THOUGHT IT'D BE NICE TO GO TO FAMILY RESTAURANTS TOO, SOMETIMES.
HMMM... WHAT TO GET...
DINGGG
CLINK
カチ
WHY NOT TRY THIS MENU?
NOTHING'S GRABBING ME.
OKAY, I'LL GO WITH PAELLA.

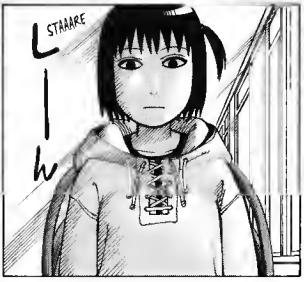

CUSTOMERS WHO ORDER FROM THE PROMOTIONAL MENU...
...WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL ORIGINAL CARD FOR EACH ITEM.
40 CARDS TOTAL
10 RARE CARDS
4 SUPER RARE CARDS
WE ARE CURRENTLY RUNNING A PROMOTION FOR THE ANIME TAIMA SENSEN.
YEP.
WILL THAT BE ALL FOR TODAY?

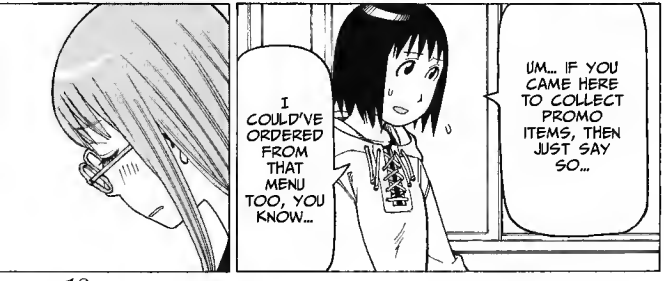
YES, WE DO!!
OH, THEN WE DON'T NEED ANY.
OH, REALLY? THAT ISN'T THE REASON I MADE MY ORDER, THOUGH...

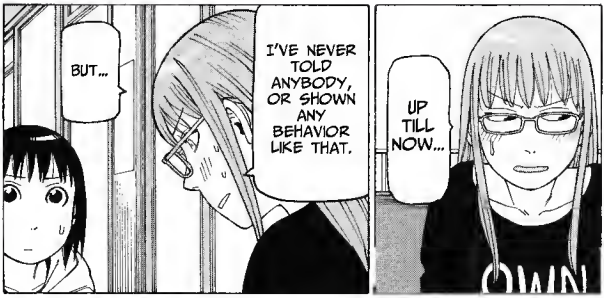
HMMMM...
I ORDERED TWO PROMO ITEMS, SO I CAN TAKE TWO CARDS, RIGHT?!
THEY'RE FREE, SO WHY NOT?!

※THERE SEEMS TO BE THAT SORT OF CHARACTER.

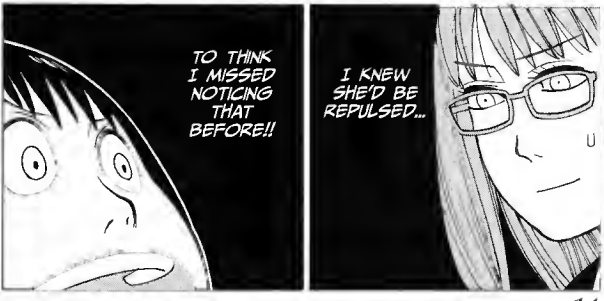


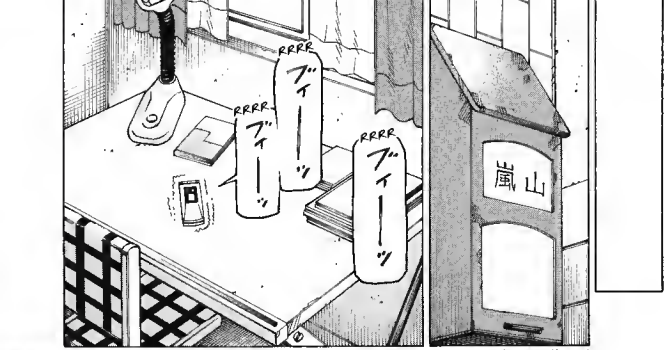




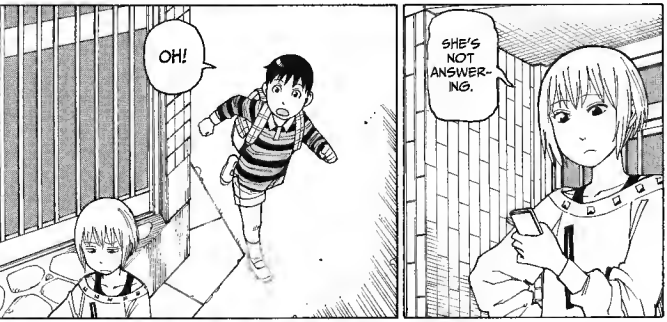

BUT...
I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYBODY, OR SHOWN ANY BEHAVIOR LIKE THAT.
UP TILL NOW...

WHAAAA?!
...INTO A FEW HOBBIES...
I'M SORT OF...
SO I'M... BORDER-LINE OTAKU, MAYBE...?

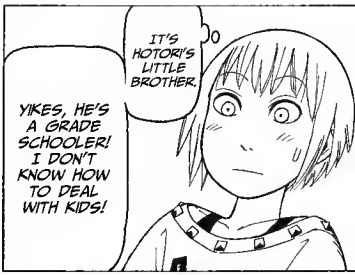

TO THINK I MISSED NOTICING THAT BEFORE!!
I KNEW SHE'D BE REPULSED...



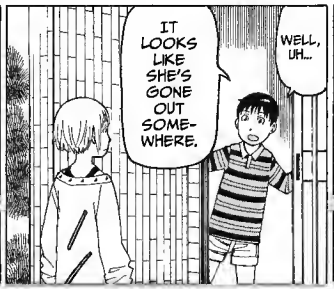
SIGN: ARASHIYAMA



UM... DO YOU NEED SIS FOR SOME-THING?


IT'S HOTORI'S LITTLE BROTHER.
YIKES, HE'S A GRADE SCHOOLER! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH KIDS!

OH... WELL, YOU SEE...


IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GONE OUT SOME-WHERE.
WELL, UH...

YEAH.
NOD
NOD

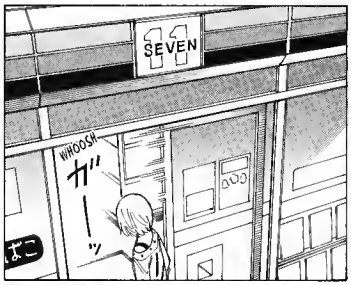
HUH? I WANNA SEE!
IT'S PROBABLY SOME DETECTIVE SHOW HOTORI LIKES, SO...

OVER... BY THE TRAIN STATION, A DRAMA...
A TV DRAMA'S BEING FILMED THERE.

SIGN: TANPOPO CAFETERIA
NOW I'M STUCK WITH THIS GRADE-SCHOOL BOY...
GAH! I SAID TOO MUCH!
I'VE HEARD THERE ARE A LOT OF DRAMA SHOOTS AROUND HERE, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER COME ACROSS ONE.
SECOND TIME WE'VE RENTED OUT THE SHOP.

I'M SAVED!
UP YOU GO!

OH, HEY! CAN'T SEE A THING, RIGHT, TAKERU-KUN? WANT A BOOST?
SURE!


SEVEN
WHOOSH
ガー

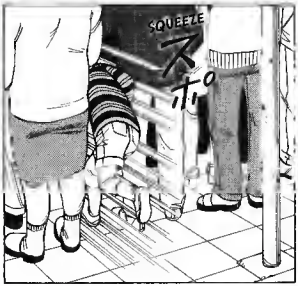
HERE THEY ARE!

I NEED COLORED PAPER, AND A MARKER...
PAPER ...!

OKAY, CUT! THAT'S A WRAP!
SORRY ABOUT ALL THE FUSS.
HI!
MAN...

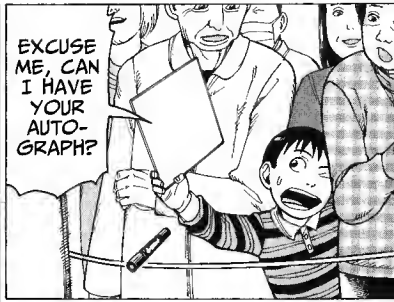
OH... YEAH.
YOU WANT THAT GUY'S AUTOGRAPH, RIGHT?

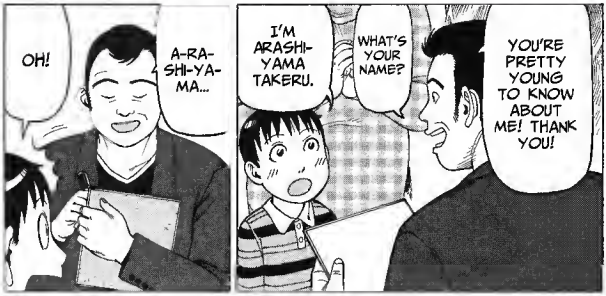
HUH?
HERE! I'LL GO GET IT FOR YOU!

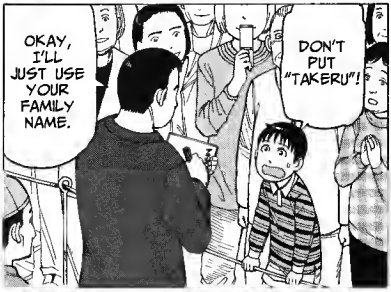

SQUEEZE
スポ

ワッ
DASH

IT'S FINE! COME ON OVER!
SORRY... I CAN'T...


EXCUSE ME, CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTO-GRAPH?

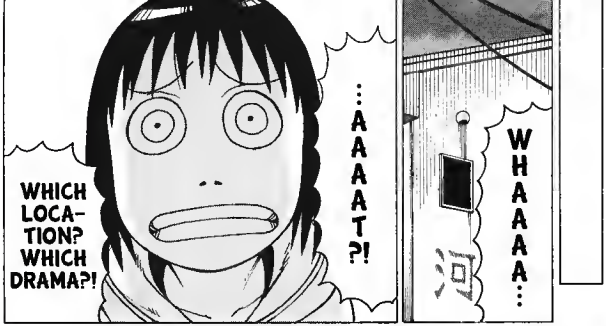

OH!
A-RA-SHI-YA-MA...
I'M ARASHI-YAMA TAKERU.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
YOU'RE PRETTY YOUNG TO KNOW ABOUT ME! THANK YOU!

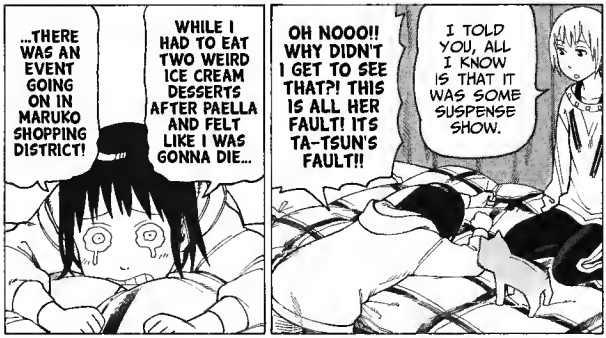

OKAY, I'LL JUST USE YOUR FAMILY NAME.
DON'T PUT "TAKERU"!

TO ARASHIYAMA-KUN

NOW I'VE DONE IT...

SORRY...
IT ENDED UP ADDRESSED TO ME.
NO, IT'S JUST FINE!
THIS IS PERFECT!
THANKS...
UM... I'M TAKERU.
THANKS A LOT, TAKESHI-KUN!


WHAAAA...
...AAAAT?!
WHICH LOCA-TION? WHICH DRAMA?!


I TOLD YOU, ALL I KNOW IS THAT IT WAS SOME SUSPENSE SHOW.
OH NOOO!! WHY DIDN'T I GET TO SEE THAT?! THIS IS ALL HER FAULT! ITS TA-TSUN'S FAULT!!
WHILE I HAD TO EAT TWO WEIRD ICE CREAM DESSERTS AFTER PAELLA AND FELT LIKE I WAS GONNA DIE...
...THERE WAS AN EVENT GOING ON IN MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT!

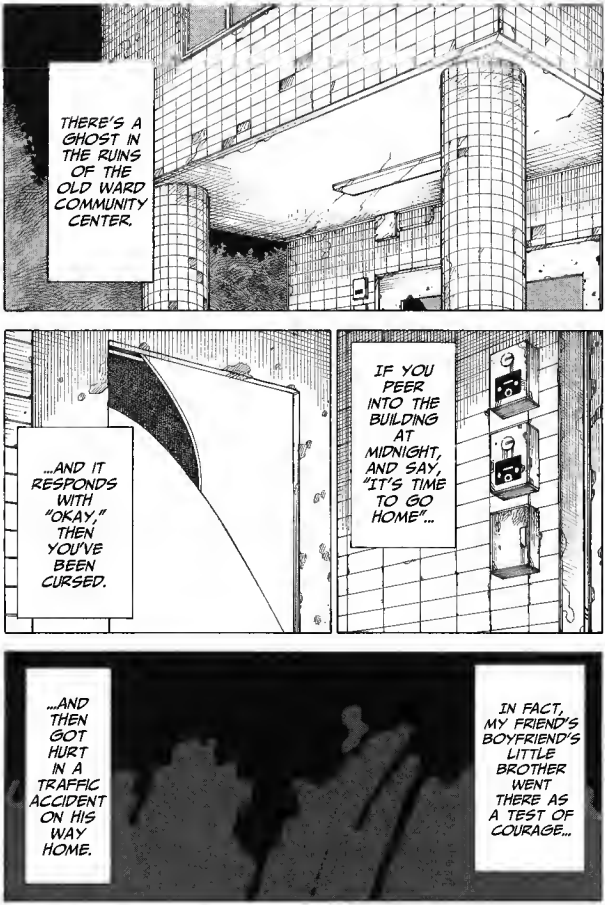
WELLL...
TA-DA!!
TO ARASHIYAMA-KUN

WOW! REALLY?! YOU GOT THIS FOR ME?!
SAY! WHOSE?! WHOSE AUTO-GRAPH IS THIS?
PANT PANT
HUH?
DUNNO. IT WAS SOME OLDER GUY.
CAN'T YOU TELL?
WHAAA...? HOW DO YOU READ THIS THING...?
WHAT SORT OF DRAMA WAS IT? WAS THE GUY MISSING ANY FRONT TEETH?
I DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK... BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY NOTABLE FEATURES LIKE THAT.
OKAY, SO HE WASN'T THE "TOOTH-LESS DETEC-TIVE"...
THEN WHO COULD IT BE? "THAT MALE PATROL LEADER"? THE "GREEN-NECKED LAWYER"?
IT'S A MYSTERY...

CHAPTER 82 / END

VERY NICE...
I'M PRETTY INTRIGUED MYSELF.
ALL RIGHT, I'LL DO SOME
INVESTIGATING~

HOTORI'S FAVORITE FOODS
MILK
CURRY RICE
YAKISOBA
SALISBURY STEAK
PANCAKES
LEAVE ME ALONE!!
LIKE A LITTLE KID.

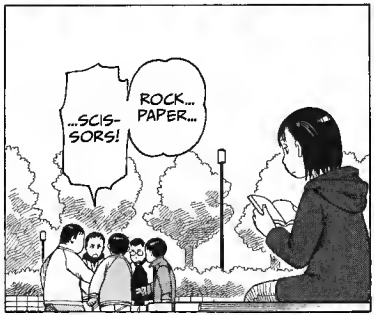

THERE'S A GHOST IN THE RUINS OF THE OLD WARD COMMUNITY CENTER.
IF YOU PEER INTO THE BUILDING AT MIDNIGHT, AND SAY, "IT'S TIME TO GO HOME"...
...AND IT RESPONDS WITH "OKAY," THEN YOU'VE BEEN CURSED.
IN FACT, MY FRIEND'S BOYFRIEND'S LITTLE BROTHER WENT THERE AS A TEST OF COURAGE...
...AND THEN GOT HURT IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ON HIS WAY HOME.

CHAPTER 83
THE VOICE THAT LURKS IN THE DARKNESS

COME ON! YOU KNOW WE'LL GET SCOLDED IF WE LEAVE THE SCHOOL ZONE WITHOUT A GUARDIAN.
WHY DO I HAVE TO WATCH YOU GUYS PLAY KICK-THE-CAN?
IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T YOU PLAY IT IN THE SCHOOL ZONE?
IT'S REALLY FUN PLAYING KICK-THE-CAN HERE.
I'M BEGGING YOU, JUST DON'T HURT YOURSELVES.

DON'T GO PLAYING IN THERE!
YOU COULD GET HURT!

GUESS IT'S LOCKED.
IT'D BE REALLY, REALLY FUN IF WE COULD USE THE INSIDE TOO.
THUNK
ガン
ガンキ
CREAK


ROCK... PAPER...
...SCIS-SORS!

TAKERU, YOUR SISTER'S REALLY SCARY.

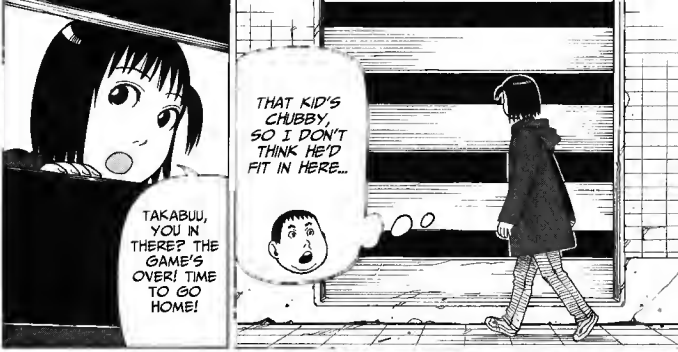
ME AND TSUYOSHI BY THE PARK, PROFESSOR AND TAKABUU BY THE BUILDING.
OKAY, LET'S SPLIT UP.
SURE.

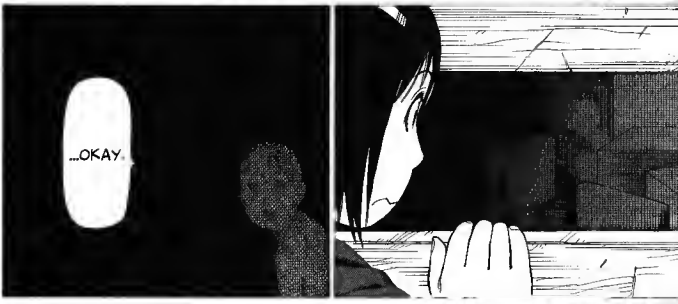
MAKKI, YOU'RE IT.
MAN...

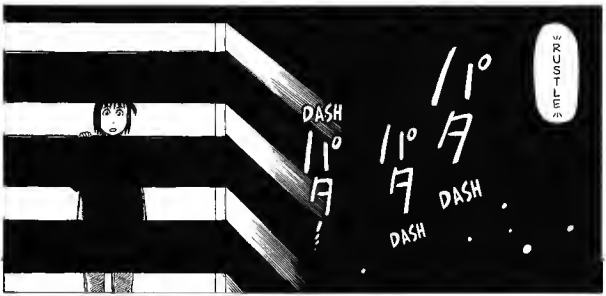
CAN: NINJA CICADA SHELL COFFEE

TSUYOSHI'S IN THE CAN!
SORRY...
I FORGOT I HAVE CRAM SCHOOL TODAY...
OH, WELL.
GUESS THAT'S IT FOR TODAY.
WHAA?!
JUST PROFESSOR AND TAKABUU LEFT...
DARN IT.
ジャジャーン
DA-DAH!
IT'S MOM.
SNAP
パカ

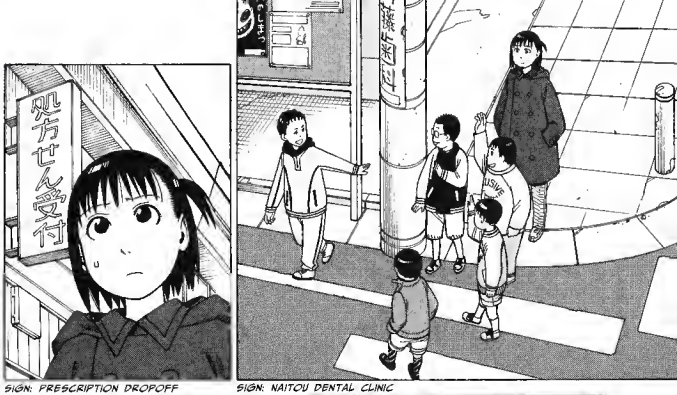
OH, ARE WE LEAVING ALREADY?
HEY, PROFESSOR, WE'RE DONE!
WHERE'S TAKABUU HIDING?
SHOULD WE SPLIT UP TO LOOK FOR HIM?
I THINK HE MAY BE OVER THAT WAY.
HOLD ON. IT'D BE A PAIN TO LOSE TRACK OF YOU GUYS, SO I'LL GO LOOK.
YOU ALL STAY HERE.
HEEEY!


TAKABUU, YOU IN THERE? THE GAME'S OVER! TIME TO GO HOME!
THAT KID'S CHUBBY, SO I DON'T THINK HE'D FIT IN HERE...


...OKAY.

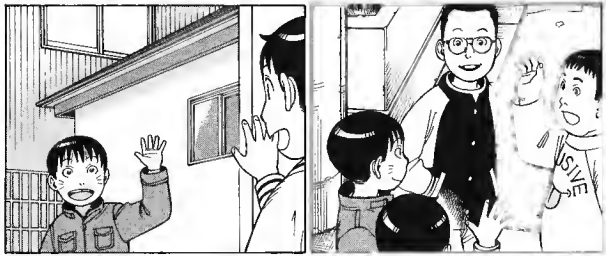

DASH
DASH
DASH
DASH
"RUSTLE"

...
...HUH?
HEY!
WE'VE GOT EVERYONE NOW.
ACK! YOU STARTLED ME!
HEY, ARASHI-YAMA-KUN'S SISTER.
SO I HID AROUND HERE.
I WANTED TO GO INSIDE, BUT COULDN'T.
WHERE WERE YOU HIDING?
YOU WEREN'T INSIDE?

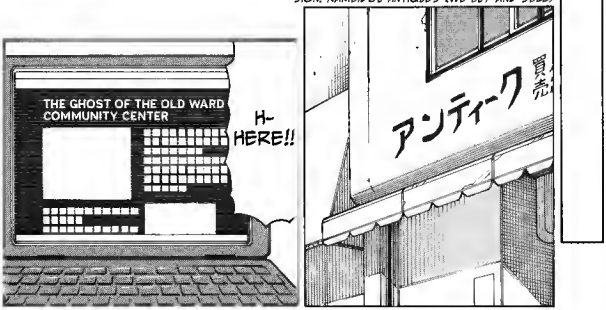


SIGN: PRESCRIPTION DROPOFF

SIGN: NAITOU DENTAL CLINIC



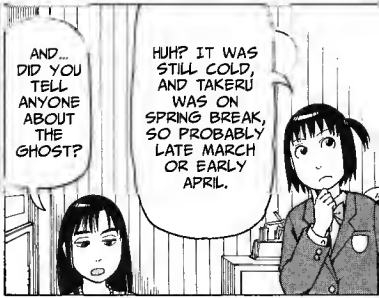
SIGN: KAMEIDOU ANTIQUES (WE BUY AND SELL)

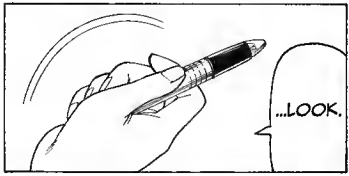


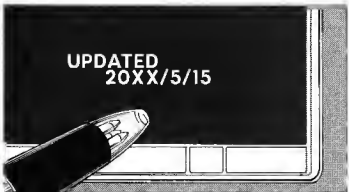
WHEN DID YOU SEE THAT GHOST, HOTORI?
FIRST, TELL ME SOME-THING.

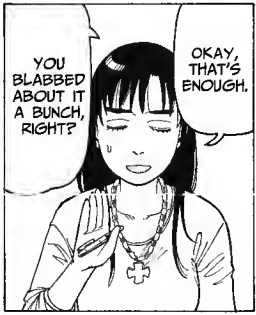
WELL?! DIDN'T I TELL YOU?! THIS SAYS IT APPEARS THERE! IT'S FAMOUS, SEE?!
NN...
THIS... THIS MUST BE IT! IT SAYS, "OKAAAAY," JUST LIKE THE ONE I SAW!

THEN MY FRIENDS AT SCHOOL...
I TOLD YOU AND GRAN RIGHT AWAY...
...AND THEN SANADA, AND—


AND... DID YOU TELL ANYONE ABOUT THE GHOST?
HUH? IT WAS STILL COLD, AND TAKERU WAS ON SPRING BREAK, SO PROBABLY LATE MARCH OR EARLY APRIL.

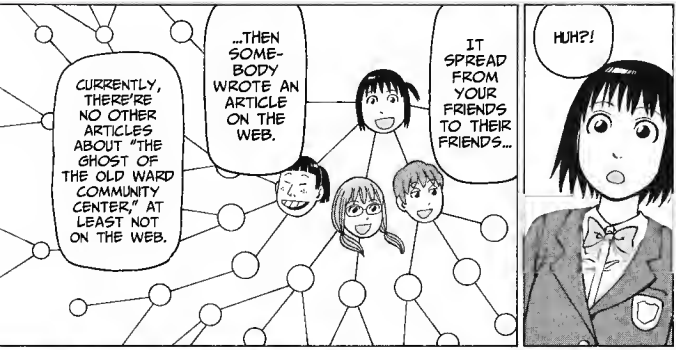

...LOOK.

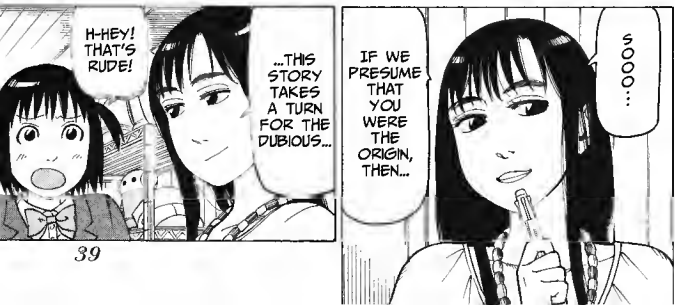

UPDATED 20XX/5/15


OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH.
YOU BLABBED ABOUT IT A BUNCH, RIGHT?

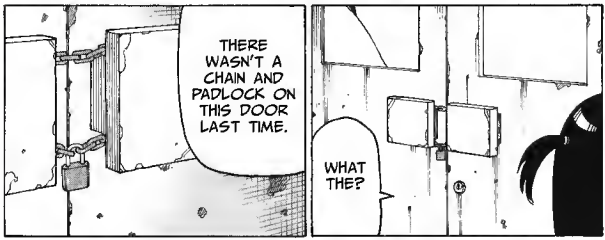
IT'S VERY LIKELY THAT THIS GHOST STORY ORIGINATED WITH YOU.
DON'T JUST SAY, "RIGHT. RIGHT."
OF COURSE IT'S THE SAME STORY AS YOURS.
THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN IN MID-MAY.
RIGHT. RIGHT.

POSTER: HONEIMO CITY

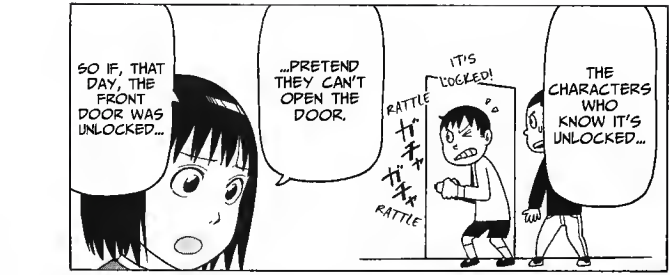

CURRENTLY, THERE'RE NO OTHER ARTICLES ABOUT "THE GHOST OF THE OLD WARD COMMUNITY CENTER," AT LEAST NOT ON THE WEB.
...THEN SOMEBODY WROTE AN ARTICLE ON THE WEB.
IT SPREAD FROM YOUR FRIENDS TO THEIR FRIENDS...
HUH?!

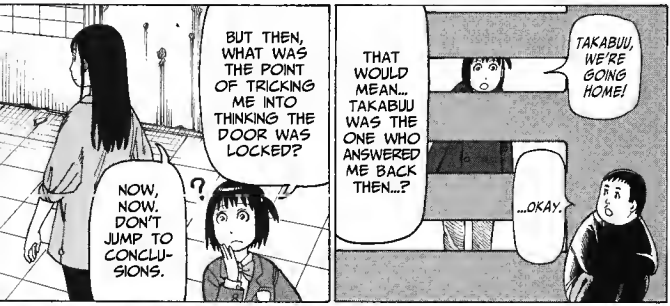


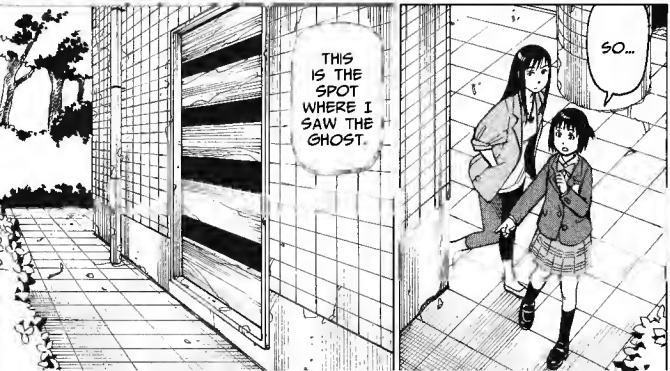
SO, THIS IS WHERE THEY WERE PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK?
KICK-THE-CAN, NOT HIDE-AND-SEEK.

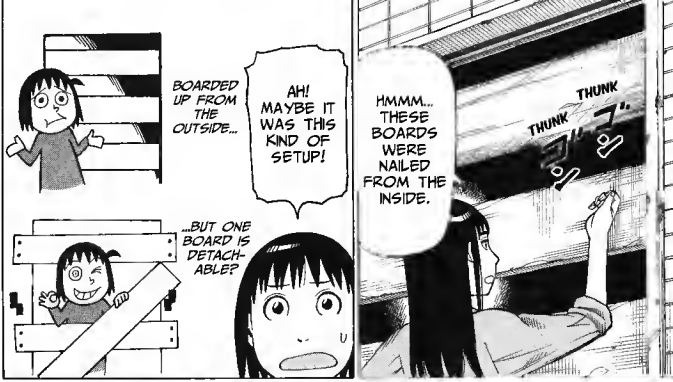

THERE WASN'T A CHAIN AND PADLOCK ON THIS DOOR LAST TIME.
WHAT THE?

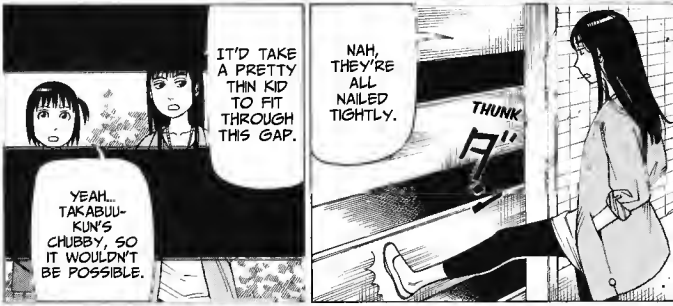
URG... I DIDN'T CHECK IT MYSELF. THE KIDS JUST SAID, "IT'S LOCKED."
MAYBE IT WAS A SETUP FOR ONE OF THOSE LOCKED-ROOM MYSTERIES?!
WAS IT REALLY LOCKED? DID YOU MAKE SURE OF IT YOURSELF?
IT WAS LOCKED, THOUGH.

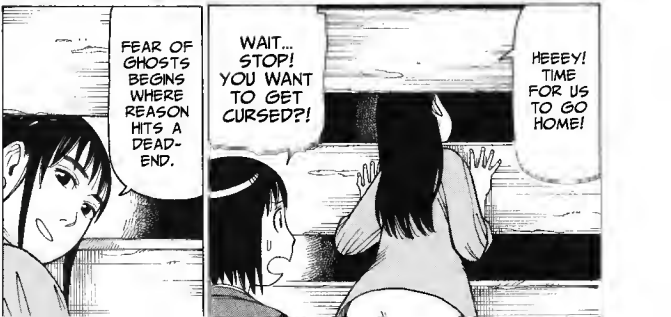

SO IF, THAT DAY, THE FRONT DOOR WAS UNLOCKED...
...PRETEND THEY CAN'T OPEN THE DOOR.
RATTLE
ガチャ
ガチャ
RATTLE
IT'S LOCKED!
THE CHARACTERS WHO KNOW IT'S UNLOCKED...

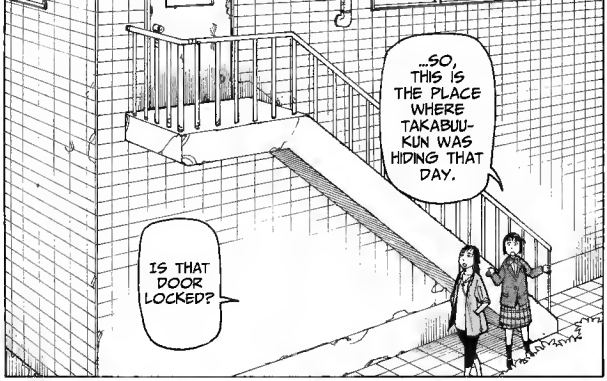

BUT THEN, WHAT WAS THE POINT OF TRICKING ME INTO THINKING THE DOOR WAS LOCKED?
NOW, NOW. DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS.
?
THAT WOULD MEAN... TAKABUU WAS THE ONE WHO ANSWERED ME BACK THEN...?
TAKABUU, WE'RE GOING HOME!
...OKAY.

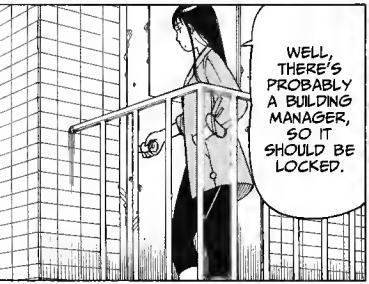

THIS IS THE SPOT WHERE I SAW THE GHOST.
SO...

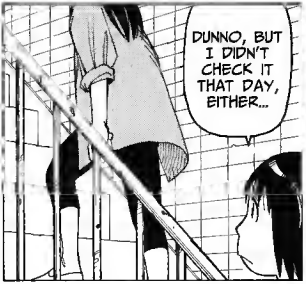

BOARDED UP FROM THE OUTSIDE...
AH! MAYBE IT WAS THIS KIND OF SETUP!
...BUT ONE BOARD IS DETACH-ABLE?
HMMM... THESE BOARDS WERE NAILED FROM THE INSIDE.
THUNK
THUNK

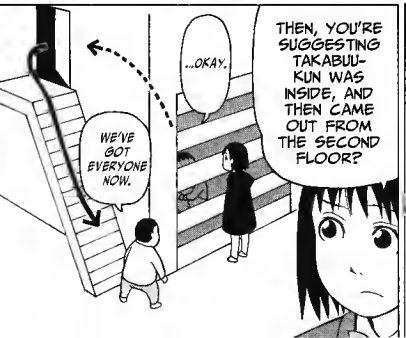

IT'D TAKE A PRETTY THIN KID TO FIT THROUGH THIS GAP.
YEAH... TAKABUU-KUN'S CHUBBY, SO IT WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE.
NAH, THEY'RE ALL NAILED TIGHTLY.
THUNK

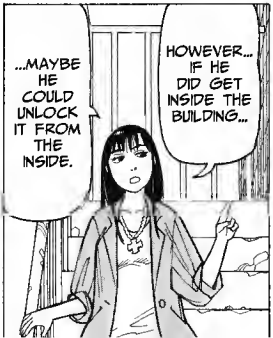

FEAR OF GHOSTS BEGINS WHERE REASON HITS A DEAD-END.
WAIT... STOP! YOU WANT TO GET CURSED?!
HEEEY! TIME FOR US TO GO HOME!

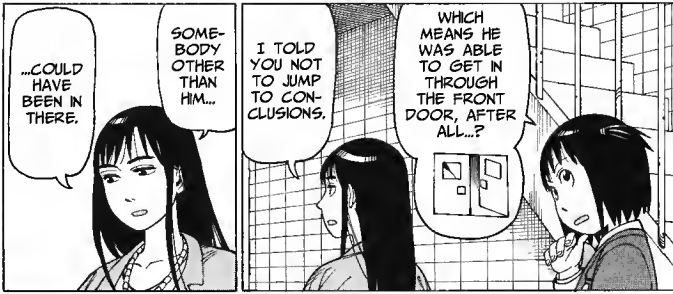

...SO, THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE TAKABUU-KUN WAS HIDING THAT DAY.
IS THAT DOOR LOCKED?

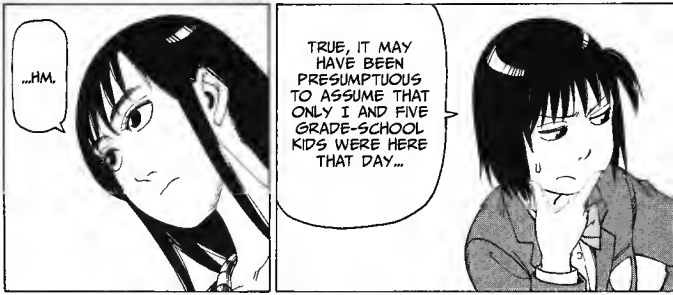

WELL, THERE'S PROBABLY A BUILDING MANAGER, SO IT SHOULD BE LOCKED.


DUNNO, BUT I DIDN'T CHECK IT THAT DAY, EITHER...


...OKAY.
THEN, YOU'RE SUGGESTING TAKABUU-KUN WAS INSIDE, AND THEN CAME OUT FROM THE SECOND FLOOR?
WE'VE GOT EVERYONE NOW.

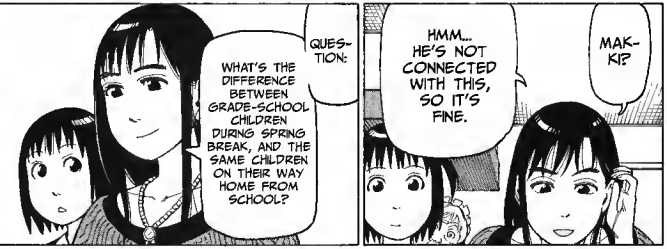

...MAYBE HE COULD UNLOCK IT FROM THE INSIDE.
HOWEVER... IF HE DID GET INSIDE THE BUILDING...


...COULD HAVE BEEN IN THERE.
SOME-BODY OTHER THAN HIM...
I TOLD YOU NOT TO JUMP TO CON-CLUSIONS.
WHICH MEANS HE WAS ABLE TO GET IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR, AFTER ALL...?

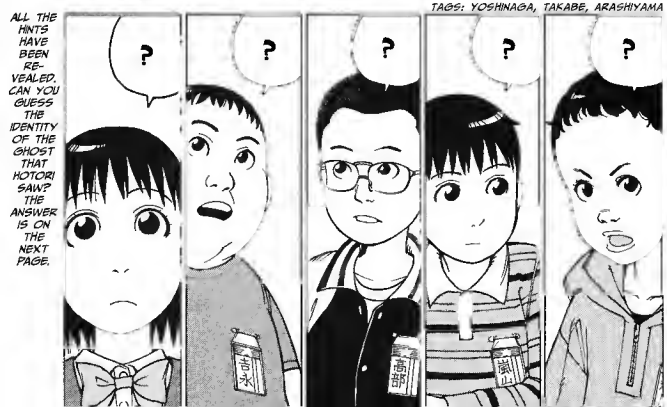

...HM.
TRUE, IT MAY HAVE BEEN PRESUMPTUOUS TO ASSUME THAT ONLY I AND FIVE GRADE-SCHOOL KIDS WERE HERE THAT DAY...

OH... I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY THAT LINE.
GATHER ALL THE CON-CERNED PARTIES IMMEDI-ATELY.
ONE IDEA COMES TO MIND.

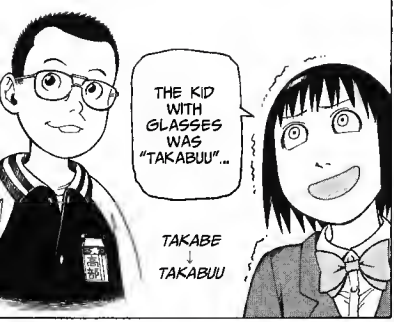
SIGN: MAID CAFE SEASIDE


QUES-TION:
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GRADE-SCHOOL CHILDREN DURING SPRING BREAK, AND THE SAME CHILDREN ON THEIR WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL?
MAK-KI?
HMM... HE'S NOT CONNECTED WITH THIS, SO IT'S FINE.

TAGS: YOSHINAGA, TAKABE, ARASHIYAMA



HUH?
OKAY... HOTORI, FIGURE IT OUT IN ONE SHOT.
OH, YEAH...
THE ANSWER: ON THE WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL, THEY'RE WEARING NAME TAGS...
OH!
NAME TAGS ...?
.....
.....
.....
.....
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH. THANKS, GUYS!
ドシャア
THWUMP

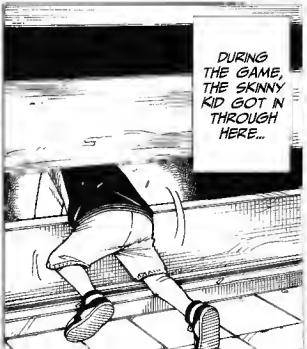

THE KID WITH GLASSES WAS "TAKABUU"...
TAKABE
↓
TAKABUU

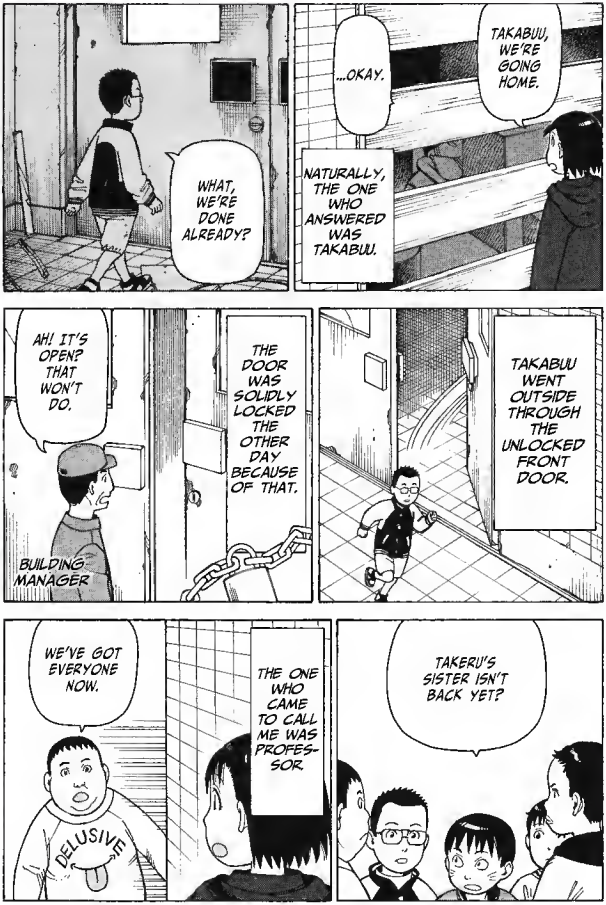
SIGH...

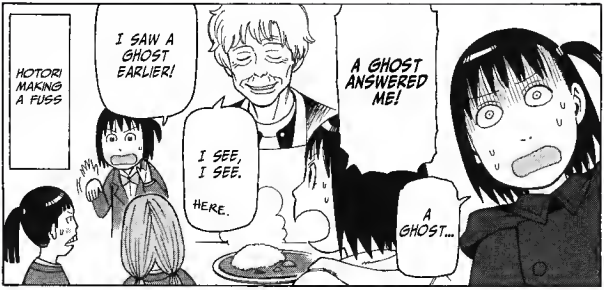
I LEFT THE SQUARE, MISSING PROFES-SOR'S RETURN.

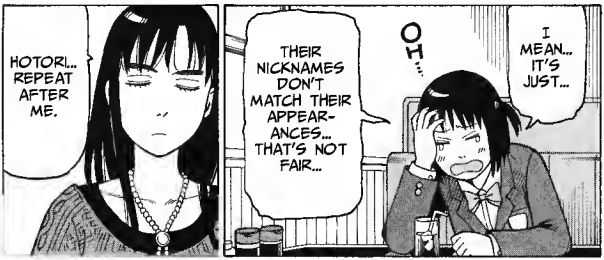
I'LL GO LOOK.
WHERE'S TAKABUU?
WE'RE LEAVING.

...AND WAS WAITING INSIDE. HE WAS TAKABUU.

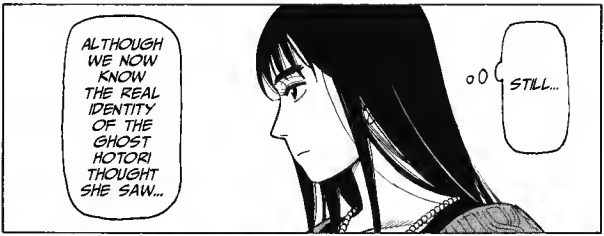

DURING THE GAME, THE SKINNY KID GOT IN THROUGH HERE...


TAKABUU, WE'RE GOING HOME.
...OKAY.
NATURALLY, THE ONE WHO ANSWERED WAS TAKABUU.
WHAT, WE'RE DONE ALREADY?
TAKABUU WENT OUTSIDE THROUGH THE UNLOCKED FRONT DOOR.
THE DOOR WAS SOLIDLY LOCKED THE OTHER DAY BECAUSE OF THAT.
AH! IT'S OPEN? THAT WON'T DO.
BUILDING MANAGER
TAKERU'S SISTER ISN'T BACK YET?
THE ONE WHO CAME TO CALL ME WAS PROFESSOR.
WE'VE GOT EVERYONE NOW.
DELUSIVE

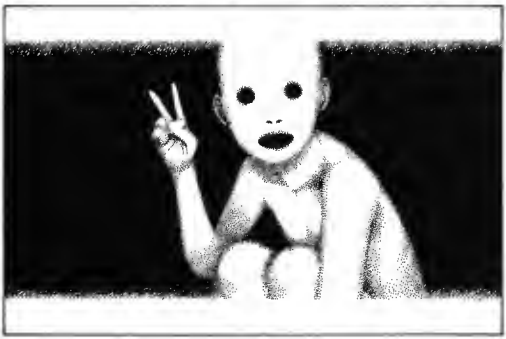

HOTORI MAKING A FUSS
I SAW A GHOST EARLIER!
I SEE, I SEE.
HERE.
A GHOST ANSWERED ME!
A GHOST...


HOTORI... REPEAT AFTER ME.
THEIR NICKNAMES DON'T MATCH THEIR APPEAR-ANCES... THAT'S NOT FAIR...
OH...
I MEAN... IT'S JUST...

...YOU'VE FAILED AS A DETEC-TIVE!
IF YOU JUDGE A PERSON BY THEIR APPEARANCE...
IF YOU JUDGE A PERSON BY THEIR APPEAR-ANCE...
DETEC-TIVE RULE NUM-BER ONE!

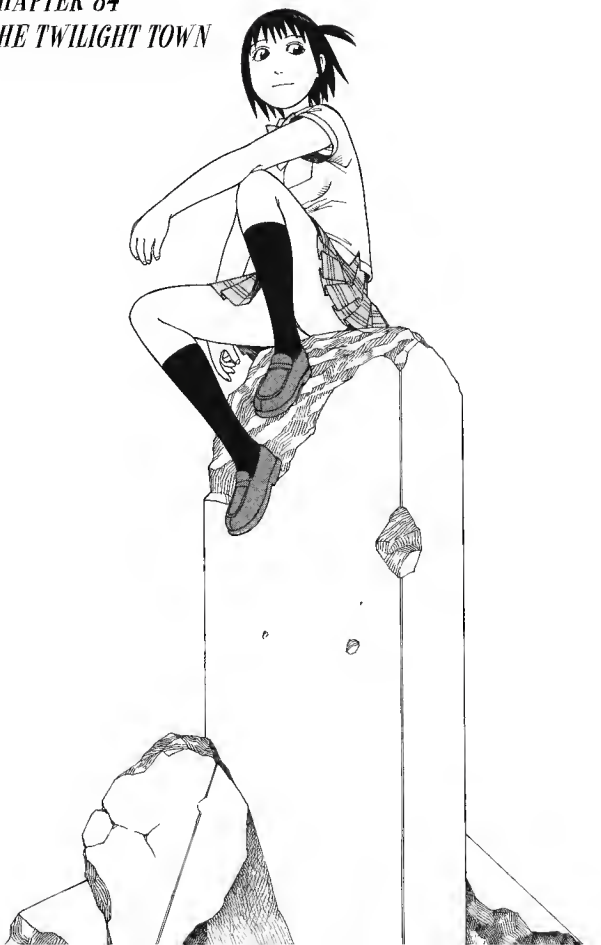


PERHAPS, WITHOUT US REALIZING, IT'S GIVEN FORM TO A GHOST THAT TECHNICALLY SHOULDN'T EXIST...
...THE SEEDS OF THE GHOST STORY HAVE SCATTERED, AS PEOPLE KEPT TELLING OTHERS ABOUT IT.



CHAPTER 83 / END

CHAPTER 84
THE TWILIGHT TOWN



Ginger Ale

キーン
コーン
DING DONG
TIME TO EAT!

I'M SURE I REMEMBER SEEING A BOTTLE OPENER HANGING RIGHT HERE...
HOW ODD...

I THOUGHT WE HAD ONE IN THE CLASS-ROOM...
WHERE'S THE BOTTLE OPENER?
NO, WE DON'T.

OH, VERY WELL...
BUT HOW AM I GONNA OPEN THIS...?
MOBY DICK

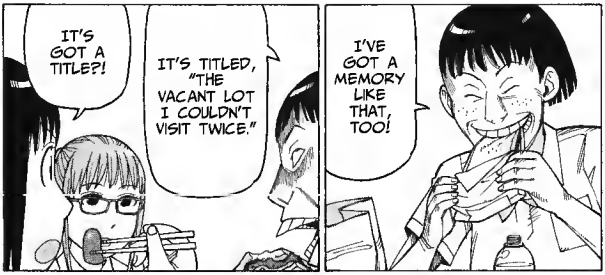
THOUGH NOW I'M THINKING THOSE MIGHT HAVE BEEN NAIL CLIPPERS INSTEAD.
MAYBE THAT WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?

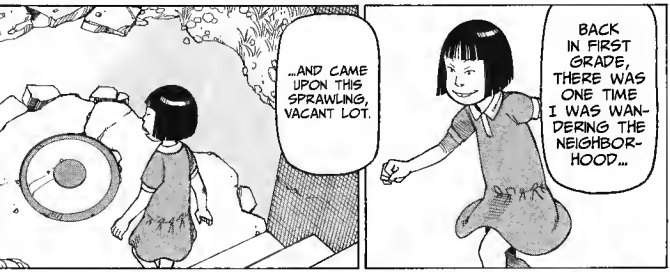
THWACK
デシ
NO, WAIT, IT'S AN OVER-BITE!
THAT PUNCHLINE WAS PRETTY FORCED...
I'LL JUST PRY OFF THE CAP WITH MY OWN—
PLIP
ビッ
YAH!
CLAMP
ピタ
ALLOW ME.
UM, WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO DO, TA-TSUN ...?
HRM.
...

TO KEEP US KIDS FROM DRINKING THEM WITHOUT PERMISSION, THEY KEPT THE BOTTLE OPENER HIGH UP.
GRRRR!
WELL... BACK IN GRADE SCHOOL, OUR HOUSE USED TO STOCK LOTS OF COLAS FOR SALE.

WHAT?! REALLY?
...I OPENED A BOTTLE FOR HIM, JUST LIKE THAT.
POP-
スポ
I RECALL MY LITTLE BROTHER PESTERING ME, UNTIL...

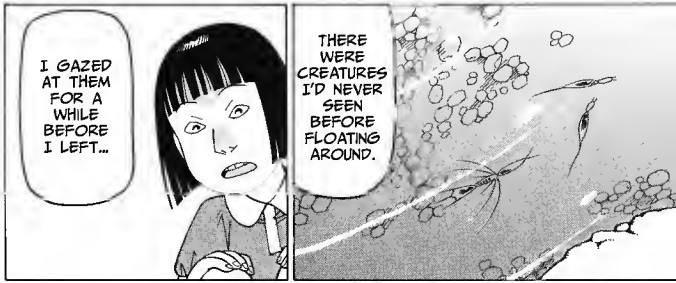
WHOA...
SIS, YOU USED TO TAKE OFF BOTTLE-CAPS WITH YOUR BARE HANDS!
MY BROTHER REMEMBERS IT, TOO.
ABOUT THAT...
WHAT A BIZARRE HALF-MEMORY FROM CHILDHOOD...


IT'S GOT A TITLE?!
IT'S TITLED, "THE VACANT LOT I COULDN'T VISIT TWICE."
I'VE GOT A MEMORY LIKE THAT, TOO!


...AND CAME UPON THIS SPRAWLING, VACANT LOT.
BACK IN FIRST GRADE, THERE WAS ONE TIME I WAS WANDERING THE NEIGHBORHOOD...

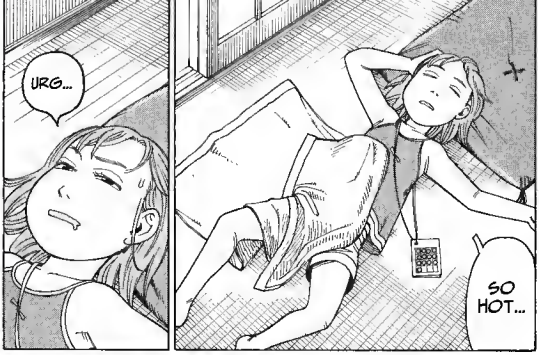
カーン CLANG
カーン CLANG
カーン CLANG
BUT THERE WAS THIS METALLIC NOISE COMING FROM NOWHERE IN PARTICULAR...
NO ONE WAS THERE.

AND IN A PUDDLE AT MY FEET...
CLANG
カーン
DING
キン
DING
キン
DING
キン

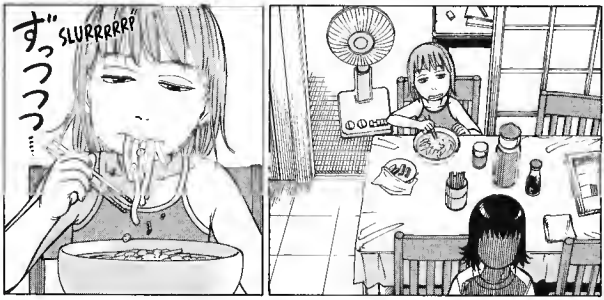

I GAZED AT THEM FOR A WHILE BEFORE I LEFT...
THERE WERE CREATURES I'D NEVER SEEN BEFORE FLOATING AROUND.

YIKES! THAT'S SCARY!
BUT THERE WAS NO SUCH VACANT LOT, NOT EVEN ON A MAP OF THE AREA!
IT SHOULD'VE BEEN NEARBY, RIGHT?!
BUT FROM THE NEXT DAY ONWARD, I COULDN'T FIND THAT VACANT LOT, NO MATTER WHAT I DID!

IN PROFESSOR SHIMABE'S NOVELS, THE INEXPLICABLE ALWAYS HAS A REASON BEHIND IT.
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU WANT ME...
...TO EXPLAIN THE MYSTERY?
NO ONE'S SAYING THAT.
TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION, YOU KNOW!
OH, HEY.
I OVERHEARD YOU GUYS TALKING, AND I REMEMBER SOMETHING STRANGE, TOO.
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, DAD LED ME BY THE HAND TO A MYSTERIOUS SOBA...
HOLD ON, WAIT YOUR TURN!
I CAN'T SOLVE BOTH MYSTERIES AT THE SAME TIME.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SOLVE THEM.

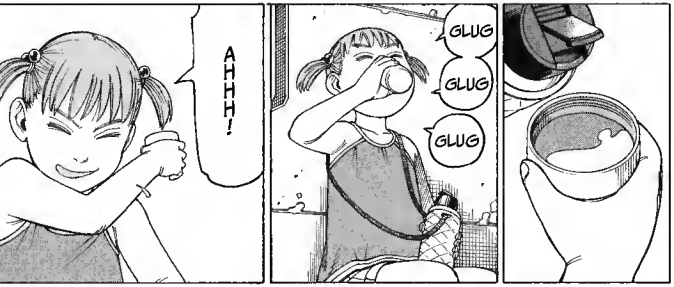


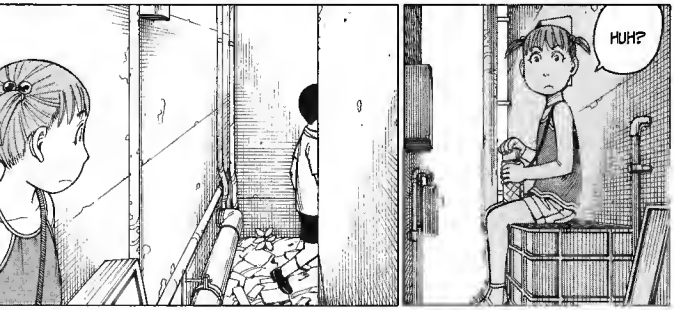
SUMMER VACATION

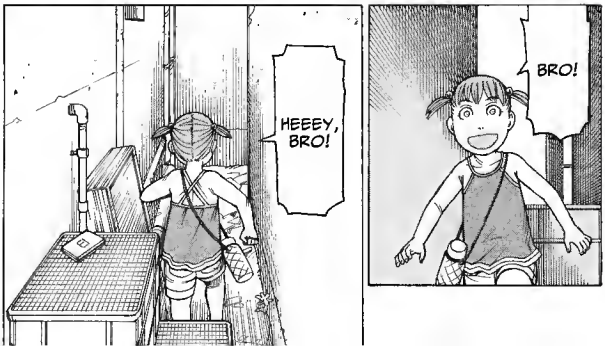


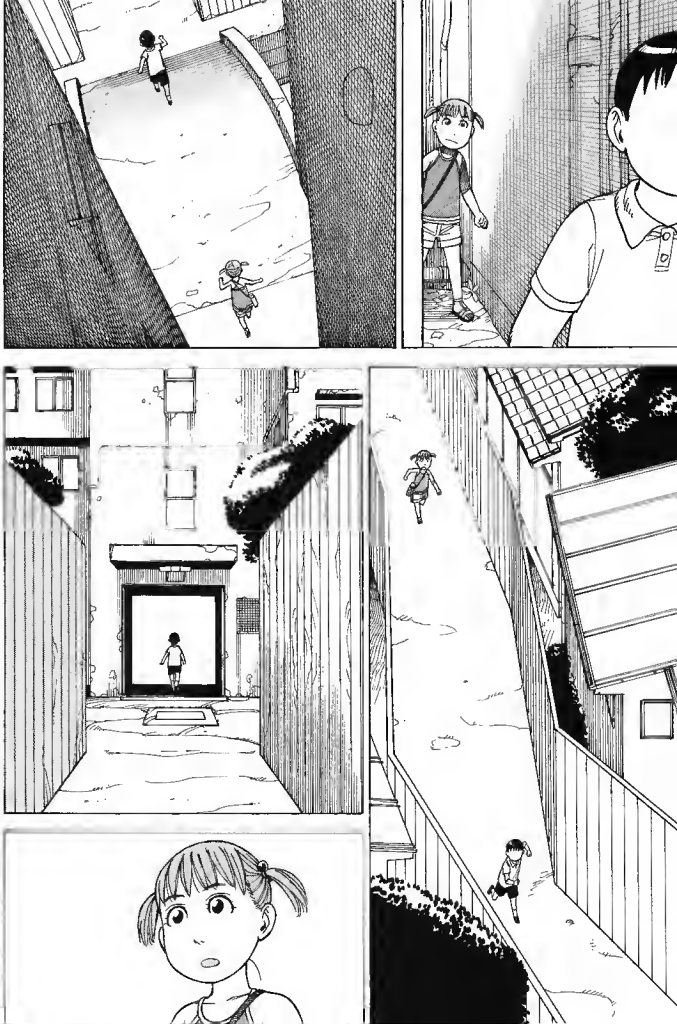
IT'S A CHANCE TO MONEY-PRIZE THIS ALL TO MYSELF!※
※MONOPOLIZE
OOH! THIS MEANS...
I'M GOING OUT TO PLAY!
WAIT!
IT'S HOT OUT THERE, SO TAKE A CANTEEN WITH YOU.
OKAY, BUT THEN I WANT IT FILLED WITH ICED GRAPE CRYSTAL SUPPORT!
OKAY, FINE.
カラカラ
ジョボボボ
RATTLE RATTLE
GURGLE
HERE'S YOUR BARLEY TEA. BE SURE TO DRINK IT.
AWW! WHY?

IT'S TOO BRIGHT TO SEE THE SCREEN!
WHOA!
GUESS I'LL TRY IN THE SHADE FOR A BIT!
LA... LA LA LA... LAAA... LAAAA... (SINGING THE GAME'S BGM.)
HEE HEE HEE HEE!
HUH? MY GAME'S GONE!
I'M HOME!

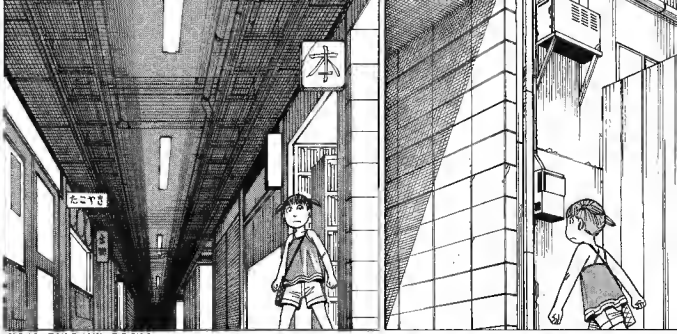

AHHH!
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG


HUH?

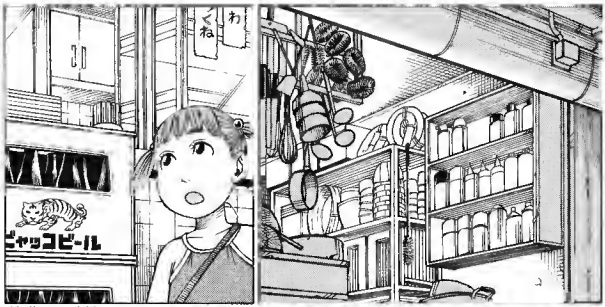

HEEEY, BRO!
BRO!



BRO, WAIT UP!!
IT'S HUGE!
A HUGE DOG!

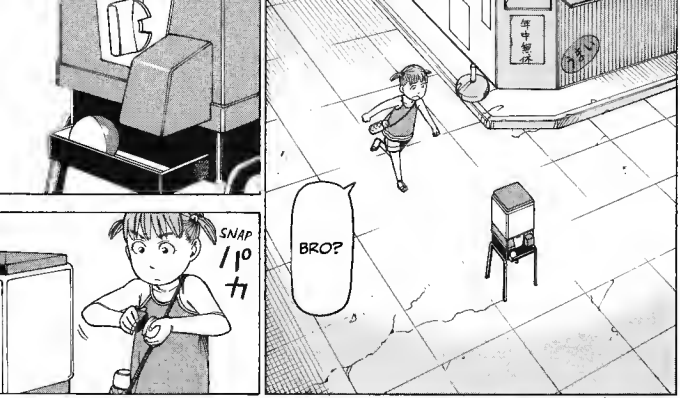


SIGNS: TAKOYAKI, BOOKS

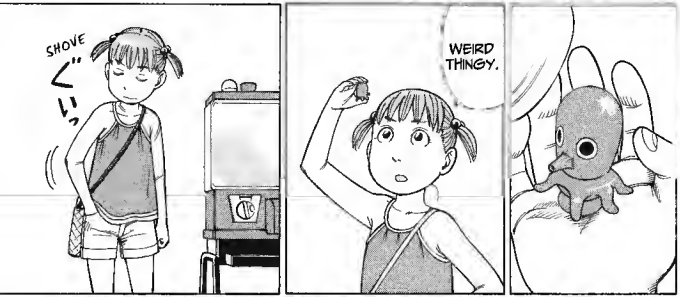


MACHINE: BYAKKO BEER

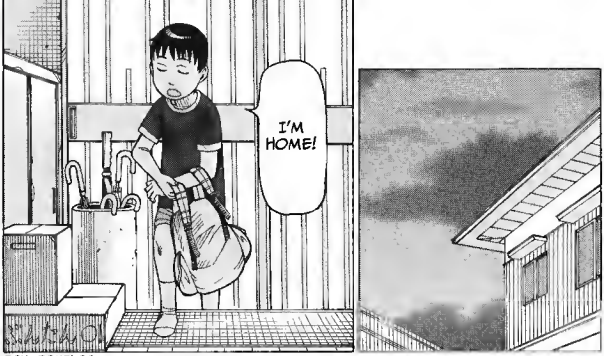
SIGN: CURRENTLY CLOSED



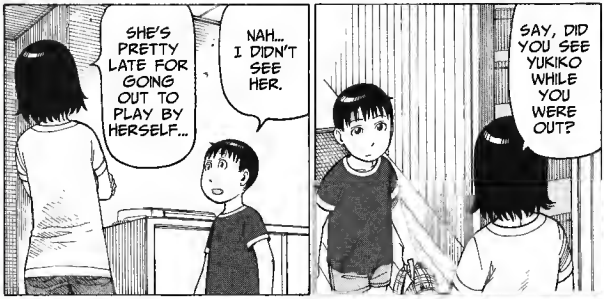
SIGNS: TASTY! OPEN DAILY

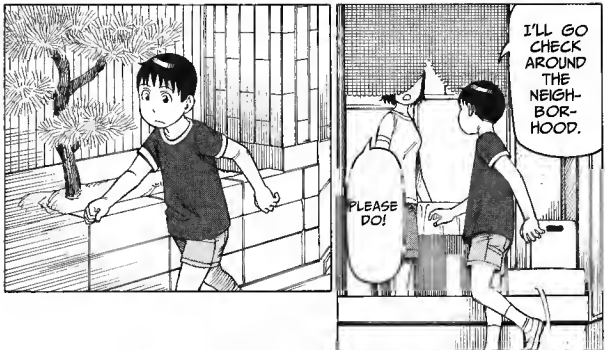


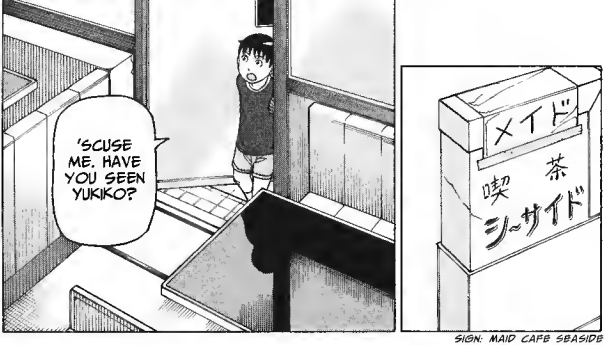
SIGNS: PHANTOM BAND, MISSING, WELCOME!, ACUPUNCTURE & MOXIBUSTION HEALTH, REIKI


I'M HOME!

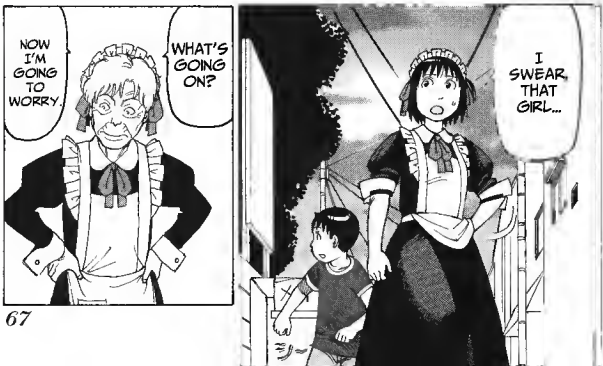
BOX: POMELOS


SHE'S PRETTY LATE FOR GOING OUT TO PLAY BY HERSELF...
NAH... I DIDN'T SEE HER.
SAY, DID YOU SEE YUKIKO WHILE YOU WERE OUT?


I'LL GO CHECK AROUND THE NEIGH-BOR-HOOD.
PLEASE DO!

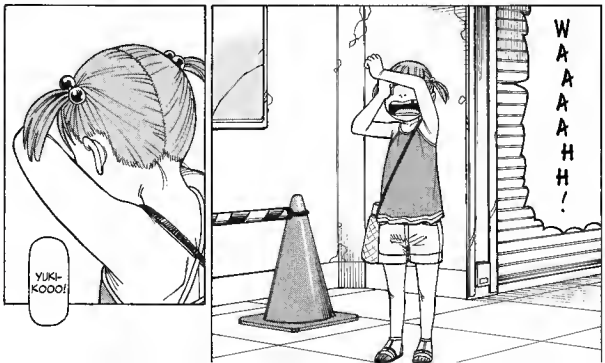


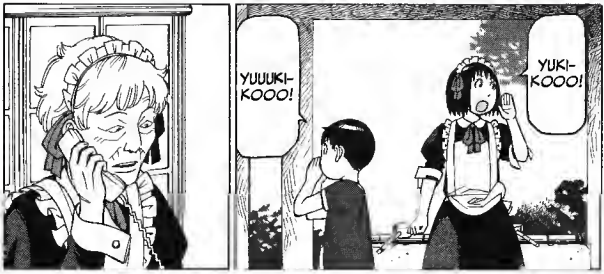
SIGN: MAID CAFE SEASIDE

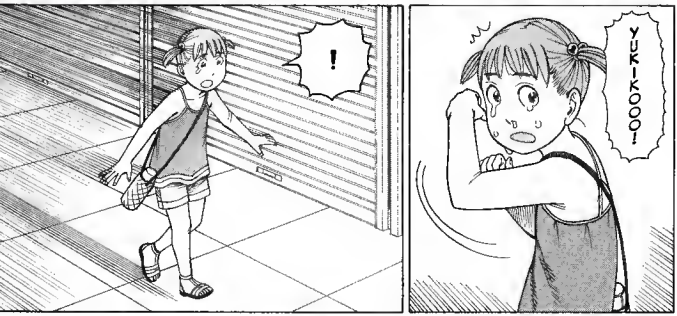


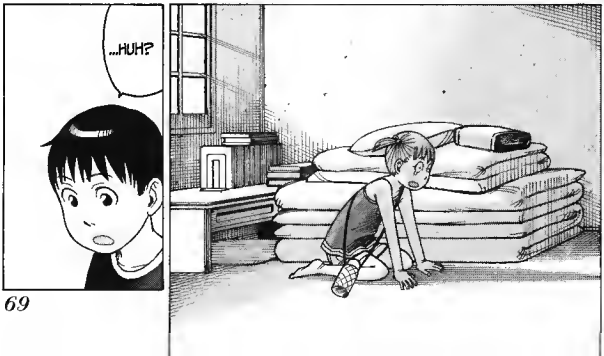
ANOTHER DEAD END...?

WHERE... ARE YOU...
SNIFF.
BRO...


YUKI-KOOO!
WAAAAHH!


YUUUKI-KOOO!
YUKI-KOOO!

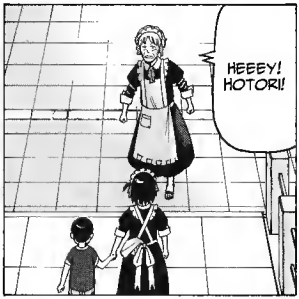

!
YUKIKOOO!


...HUH?

?
?
?

OH?
I KINDA GET THE FEELING SHE'S HOME NOW.

I WAS WORRIED, SO... GASP GASP...
I JUST CALLED YOUR HOUSE, AND...


HEEEY! HOTORI!

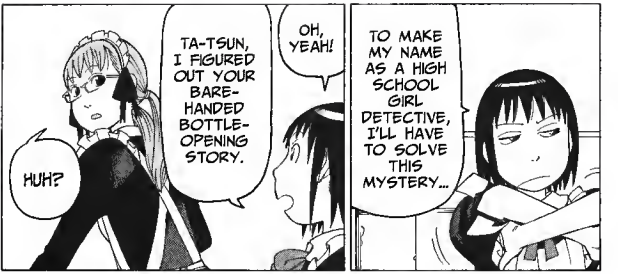
WHAA?!

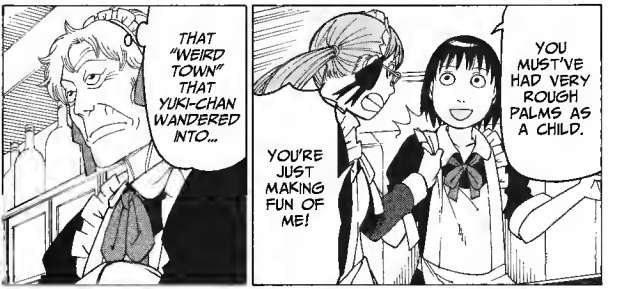
THEY SAID YUKI-CHAN'S AT HOME.

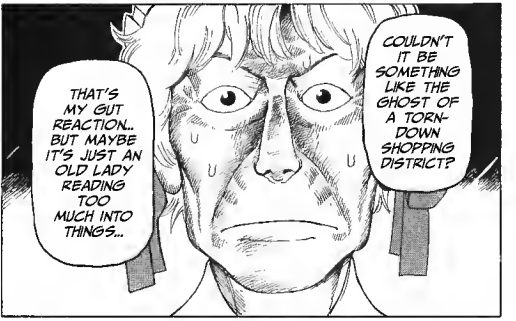
I DON'T KNOW!
HOW DID YOU GET HOME WITHOUT US NO-TICING?
I WAS FOL-LOWING BRO.
LIAR! I WAS AT MAKKI'S HOUSE.
DID YOU PRETEND TO GO OUTSIDE, AND THEN HIDE?
NO... I WENT.
PAT / / / / / / PAT PAT
ALSO, WHERE'D YOU PUT MY GAME?
OH!

YOUR GAME?
I DON'T KNOW!
OH MY... WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S LIKE THE TOYS I USED TO COLLECT WHEN I WAS YOUNG...
HOW'D YOU GET THIS?
I DON'T KNOW...
I BOUGHT... (NO)
I PICKED UP... (NO)
I WAS GIVEN... (NO)

MY, WHAT A STRANGE STORY.
IT KINDA SOUNDS LIKE HARIBARA-SAN'S "VACANT LOT OF DREAMS."
"VACANT LOT I COULDN'T VISIT TWICE." AND YEAH, I THOUGHT IT WAS SIMILAR TOO.
THEY DO SAY THAT, IN CHILD-HOOD ONLY...
...YOU HAVE ESP, AND CAN DO STUFF LIKE SEE THE UNSEEABLE, OR ENTER STRANGE DIMENSIONS.
SAY WHATEVER YOU LIKE, I'M NOT GOING TO BELIEVE IN SUCH A CRAZY STORY.
ALTHOUGH... THERE IS THAT SOUVENIR YUKIKO BROUGHT BACK FROM THE "WEIRD TOWN."
WHEN I HAD THE ANTIQUES DEALER LOOK INTO IT, SHIZUKA-SAN FOUND IT WAS A TOY FROM 30 OR 40 YEARS AGO, AND THAT THE MANUFACTURER HAD GONE BANKRUPT.


TA-TSUN, I FIGURED OUT YOUR BARE-HANDED BOTTLE-OPENING STORY.
HUH?
OH, YEAH!
TO MAKE MY NAME AS A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL DETECTIVE, I'LL HAVE TO SOLVE THIS MYSTERY...

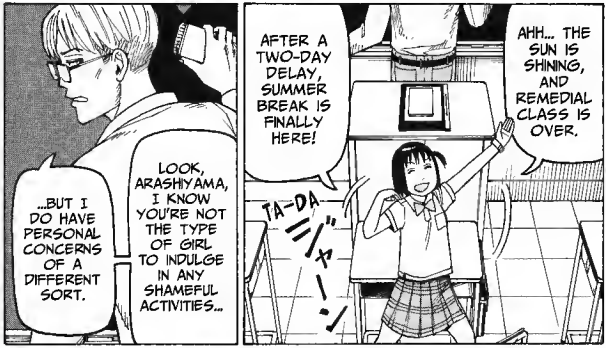



THAT'S MY GUT REACTION... BUT MAYBE IT'S JUST AN OLD LADY READING TOO MUCH INTO THINGS...
COULDN'T IT BE SOMETHING LIKE THE GHOST OF A TORN-DOWN SHOPPING DISTRICT?

CHAPTER 84 / END

CHAPTER 85 KON-SENPAI IS A MYSTERY!

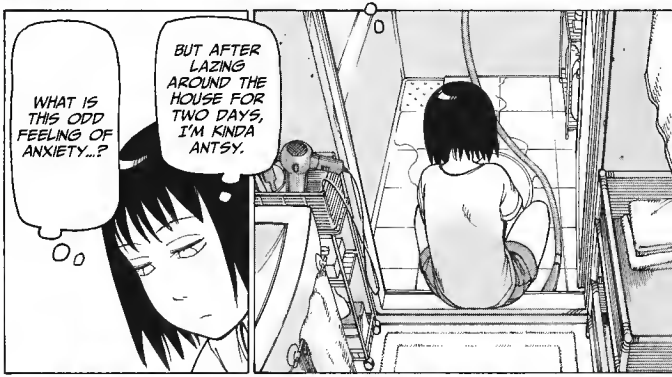
PAPER: REMEDIAL MATH

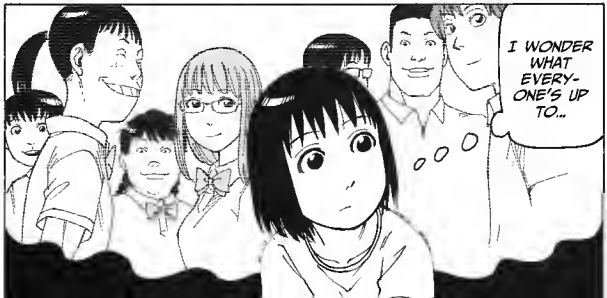

AHH... THE SUN IS SHINING, AND REMEDIAL CLASS IS OVER.
AFTER A TWO-DAY DELAY, SUMMER BREAK IS FINALLY HERE!
TA-DA
ジャーン
LOOK, ARASHIYAMA, I KNOW YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE OF GIRL TO INDULGE IN ANY SHAMEFUL ACTIVITIES...
...BUT I DO HAVE PERSONAL CONCERNS OF A DIFFERENT SORT.

EH? PERSONAL CONCERNS? LIKE WHAT?
THAT YOU MIGHT GET A STOMACH-ACHE FROM EATING TOO MUCH COLD FOOD.
OR DASH INTO A BUSY STREET WHILE CHASING AFTER A BALL...
I'M NOT IN GRADE SCHOOL!!

MAAAN, MORIARKY SEES ME AS NOTHING BUT A CHILD...
SHUT
ALL RIGHT! TIME TO MAKE UP FOR THOSE TWO WASTED DAYS!
YAY!
DID YOU JUST SAY "WASTED DAYS"?
ACK!
SHWAP
DON'T BE SILLY! WELL, SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!
I MEAN, SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!
AHH... NOTHING LIKE THE FEELING OF STARTING A LONG SUMMER BREAK!
IT'S AS IF I GO TO SCHOOL JUST TO ENJOY THIS MOMENT.

...OR SO I THOUGHT.


BUT AFTER LAZING AROUND THE HOUSE FOR TWO DAYS, I'M KINDA ANTSY.
WHAT IS THIS ODD FEELING OF ANXIETY...?

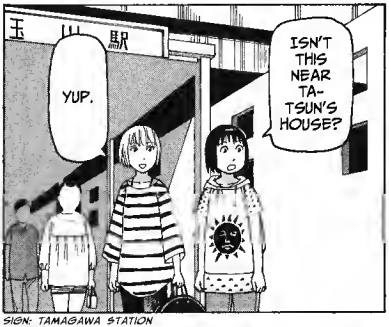

I WONDER WHAT EVERY-ONE'S UP TO...

BOTTLE: PET SHAMPOO KING OF TRESSES

SHIRT: HOMERUN

※ SOAKING-WET JOSEPHINE

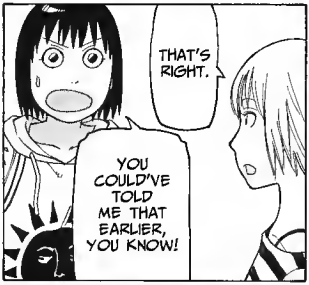
IS YOUR TANUKI A GUIDED MIS-SILE?
SORRY... SHE MUST'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU, KON-SENPAI.
HUH... I'M NOT TOO GOOD WITH BABIES OR ANIMALS LIKING ME.
BY THE WAY...
WHINE
I'M HEADING TO MY VILLA NOW. WANNA COME ALONG?
WHA?! ...Y-Y-YOUR...
...VILLA?!
HRM?
THIS IS PRETTY SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT FOR SUCH A BIG OUTING...
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL BE BACK THIS EVENING.
HUH?
OH, BRING A HAT AND BUG SPRAY.
ホームラン

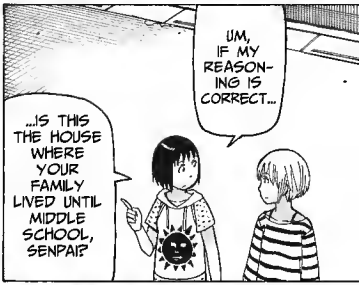


SIGN: TAMAGAWA STATION

...THIS PLACE LOOKS AN AWFUL LOT LIKE A REGULAR HOUSE.

FOR A "VILLA"...

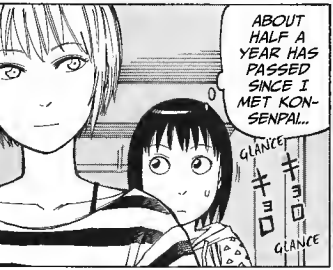

THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU COULD'VE TOLD ME THAT EARLIER, YOU KNOW!


UM, IF MY REASONING IS CORRECT...
...IS THIS THE HOUSE WHERE YOUR FAMILY LIVED UNTIL MIDDLE SCHOOL, SENPAI?

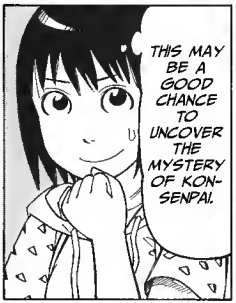
MOMMY—MOM ASKED ME TO AIR OUT THE HOUSE AND TRIM THE YARD.

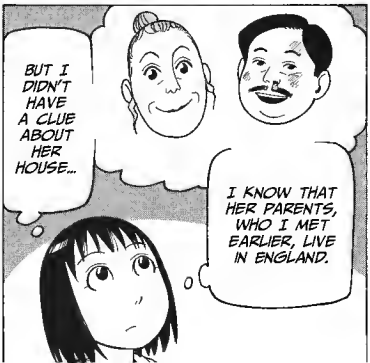
...WHICH, IN FACT, YOU JUST DID.
I THOUGHT YOU'D FIGURE IT OUT...

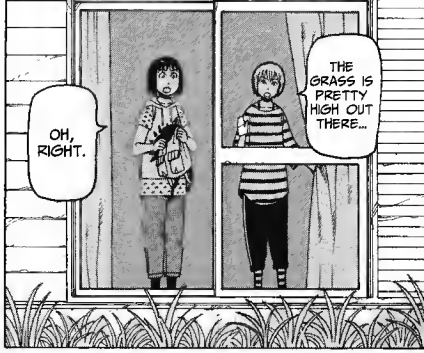
CLACK
ガチャ
IT'S BEEN ABOUT TWO YEARS SINCE I LAST CAME.
WELL, I DON'T MIND... BUT ONLY BECAUSE I'VE BEEN FEELING BORED AND SLUGGISH.
AND SINCE I TREATED YOU TO A DRINK, YOU'RE HELPING.
CLUNK CLICK
カチャリ

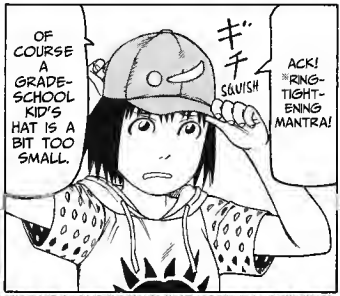

ABOUT HALF A YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE I MET KON-SENPAI...
GLANCE
キョロ
GLANCE

EXCUSE ME FOR COMING IN...


THIS MAY BE A GOOD CHANCE TO UNCOVER THE MYSTERY OF KON-SENPAI.

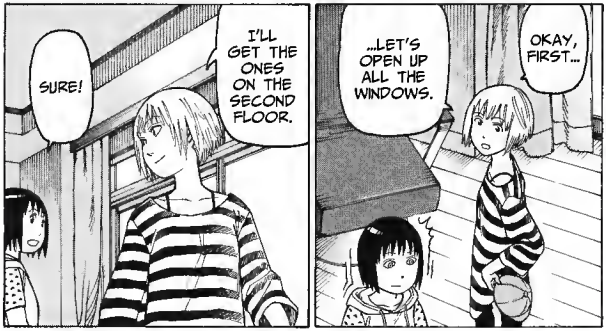

BUT I DIDN'T HAVE A CLUE ABOUT HER HOUSE...
I KNOW THAT HER PARENTS, WHO I MET EARLIER, LIVE IN ENGLAND.

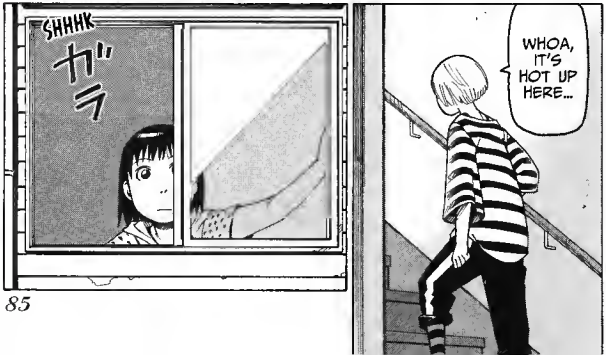


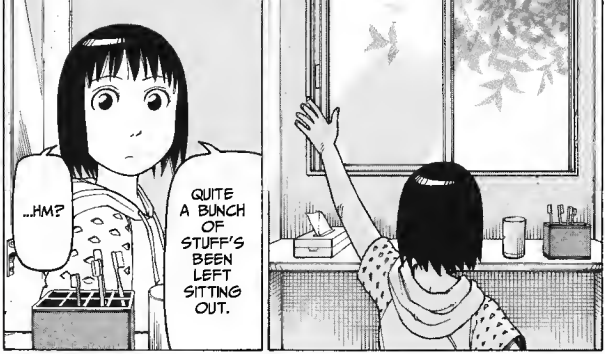


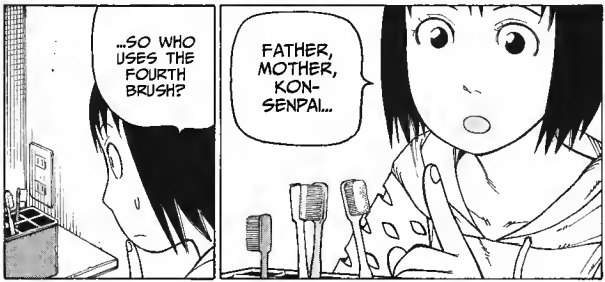
※A REFERENCE TO THE SPELL THAT TIGHTENED THE BAND AROUND MONKEY'S HEAD IN JOURNEY TO THE WEST.

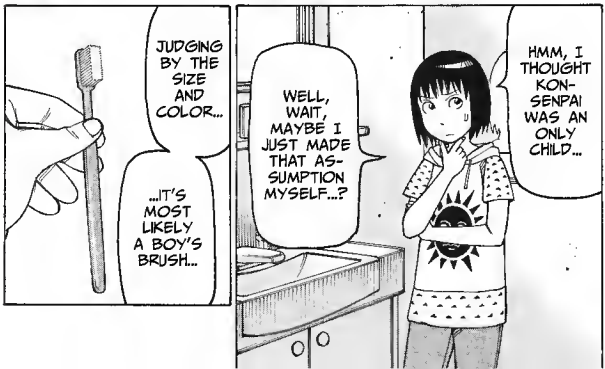
BUT AS IT BECAME CLEAR THAT CONSIDERING THE IMPLICATIONS WOULD ONLY LEAD TO SADNESS, SHE STOPPED THINKING ABOUT IT.
AT THAT MOMENT, HOTORI FELT SOMEWHAT UNSETTLED.


I'LL GET THE ONES ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
SURE!
...LET'S OPEN UP ALL THE WINDOWS.
OKAY, FIRST...


SHHHK
ガラ
WHOA, IT'S HOT UP HERE...


...HM?
QUITE A BUNCH OF STUFF'S BEEN LEFT SITTING OUT.


...SO WHO USES THE FOURTH BRUSH?
FATHER, MOTHER, KON-SENPAI...

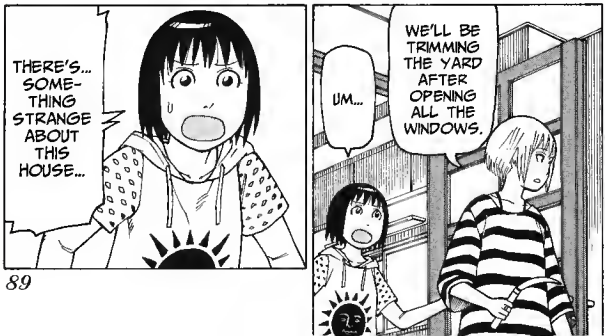

JUDGING BY THE SIZE AND COLOR...
...IT'S MOST LIKELY A BOY'S BRUSH...
WELL, WAIT, MAYBE I JUST MADE THAT AS-SUMPTION MYSELF...?
HMM, I THOUGHT KON-SENPAI WAS AN ONLY CHILD...

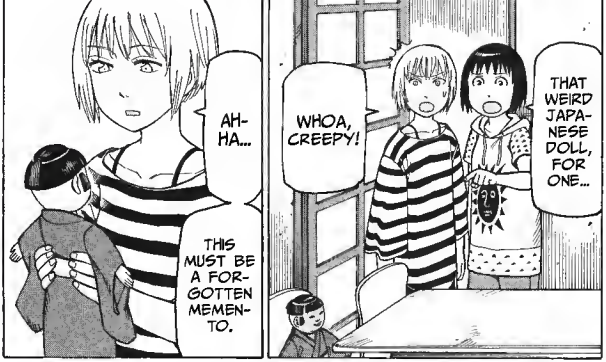
ヒラ
FLUTTER
ガラリ
RATTLE
A SCRAP OF PAPER BLEW OFF...
WHA?
ゴクン
GULP
...A TALISMAN?
WH-WHAT IS THIS?

AAA!
GAH!!
A D-DOLL?
MAN, THAT STARTLED ME... WHY, OH WHY, IS IT SITTING THERE...?
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
FOR SOME TIME NOW... SOMETHING HAS SEEMED OFF...
...IN THIS HOUSE.
THERE'S SOMETHING... AWFUL...
IS THIS REALLY KONSENPAI'S HOUSE?!

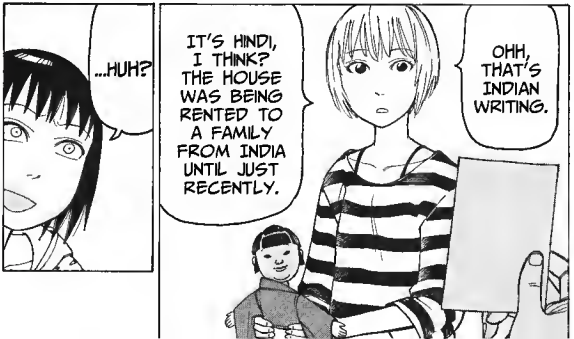
GYAAAAAH!
HEY! WATCH IT!

DON'T HORSE AROUND LIKE THAT WHEN I'VE GOT A SHARP BLADE!
DID YOU HURT YOUR HAND?

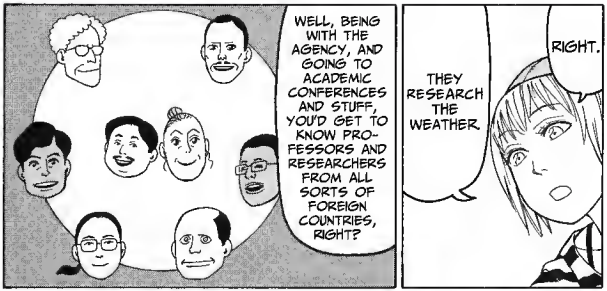

WE'LL BE TRIMMING THE YARD AFTER OPENING ALL THE WINDOWS.
UM...
THERE'S... SOME-THING STRANGE ABOUT THIS HOUSE...

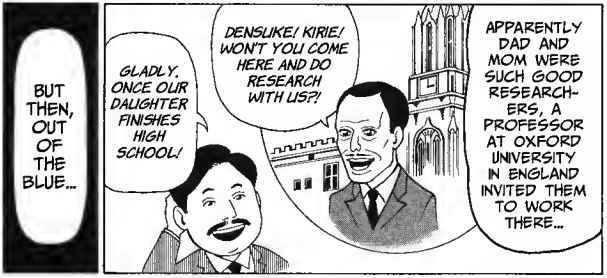

AH-HA...
THIS MUST BE A FORGOTTEN MEMENTO.
WHOA, CREEPY!
THAT WEIRD JAPANESE DOLL, FOR ONE...

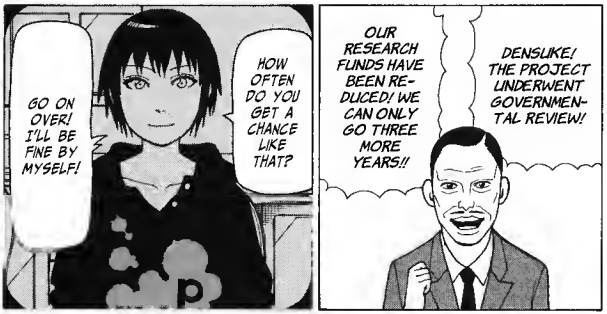
MAYBE IT'S A MAGIC CHARM?
ALSO, THERE'S THIS...
HUHH?
MEMENTO...?
DOES THAT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH WHY THERE'S AN EXTRA TOOTHBRUSH?

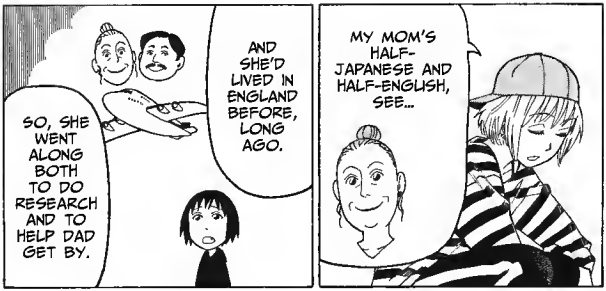

...HUH?
IT'S HINDI, I THINK? THE HOUSE WAS BEING RENTED TO A FAMILY FROM INDIA UNTIL JUST RECENTLY.
OHH, THAT'S INDIAN WRITING.

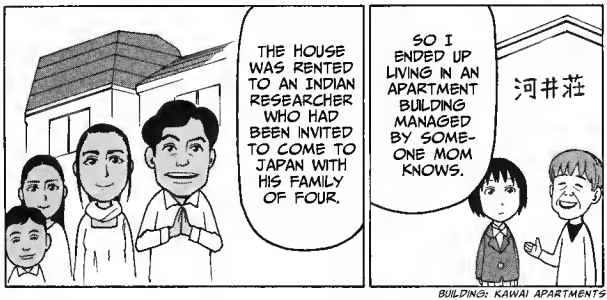
UM, HEY! I REALLY HOPE YOU DON'T MIND ME SAYING SO...
...BUT YOU HAVE A BAD HABIT OF NOT SAYING ENOUGH, SENPAI!
SINCE YOU DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT THIS STUFF EARLIER, I ENDED UP GETTING SPOOKED FOR NO GOOD REASON!
I MEAN, SURE, I CAN DEAL WITH THAT SORT OF THING CALMLY... BUT TA-TSUN WOULD HAVE DIED OF FRIGHT AFTER SEEING THAT DOLL!
HOW MUCH DO I HAVE TO EXPLAIN... UGH...
WELL, DADDY AND DAD...
I'LL START AGAIN.
DAD AND MOM ARE SCIENTISTS WITH THE METEORO-LOGICAL AGENCY.
METEORO-LOGICAL AGENCY?!
YOU MEAN, LIKE FOR WEATHER AND STUFF... THE WEATHER SERVICE?!


WELL, BEING WITH THE AGENCY, AND GOING TO ACADEMIC CONFERENCES AND STUFF, YOU'D GET TO KNOW PROFESSORS AND RESEARCHERS FROM ALL SORTS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES, RIGHT?
THEY RESEARCH THE WEATHER.
RIGHT.

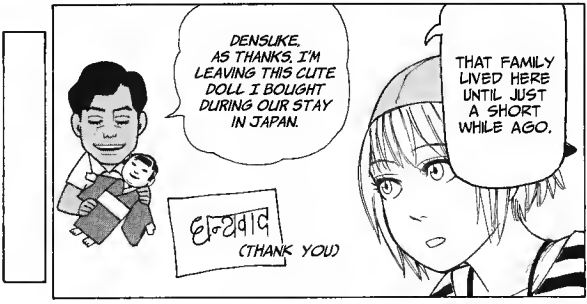

BUT THEN, OUT OF THE BLUE...
GLADLY. ONCE OUR DAUGHTER FINISHES HIGH SCHOOL!
DENSUKE! KIRIE! WON'T YOU COME HERE AND DO RESEARCH WITH US?!
APPARENTLY DAD AND MOM WERE SUCH GOOD RESEARCHERS, A PROFESSOR AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY IN ENGLAND INVITED THEM TO WORK THERE...

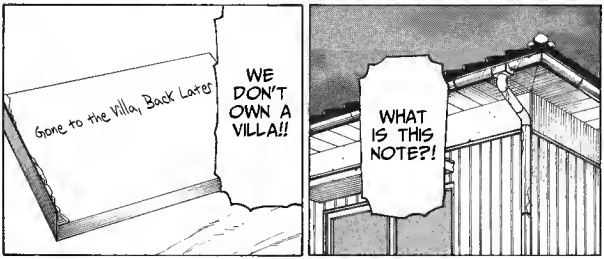

GO ON OVER! I'LL BE FINE BY MYSELF!
HOW OFTEN DO YOU GET A CHANCE LIKE THAT?
OUR RESEARCH FUNDS HAVE BEEN REDUCED! WE CAN ONLY GO THREE MORE YEARS!!
DENSUKE! THE PROJECT UNDERWENT GOVERNMENTAL REVIEW!

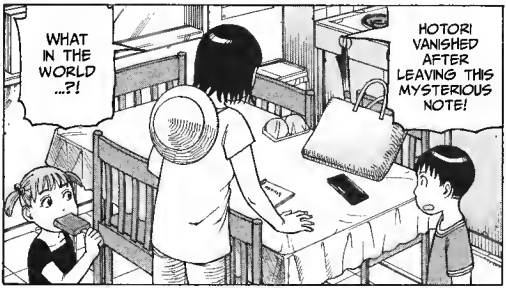

MY MOM'S HALF-JAPANESE AND HALF-ENGLISH, SEE...
AND SHE'D LIVED IN ENGLAND BEFORE, LONG AGO.
SO, SHE WENT ALONG BOTH TO DO RESEARCH AND TO HELP DAD GET BY.


SO I ENDED UP LIVING IN AN APARTMENT BUILDING MANAGED BY SOME-ONE MOM KNOWS.
河井荘
THE HOUSE WAS RENTED TO AN INDIAN RESEARCHER WHO HAD BEEN INVITED TO COME TO JAPAN WITH HIS FAMILY OF FOUR.

BUILDING: KAWAI APARTMENTS


THAT FAMILY LIVED HERE UNTIL JUST A SHORT WHILE AGO.
DENSUKE, AS THANKS, I'M LEAVING THIS CUTE DOLL I BOUGHT DURING OUR STAY IN JAPAN.
धन्यवाद
(THANK YOU)

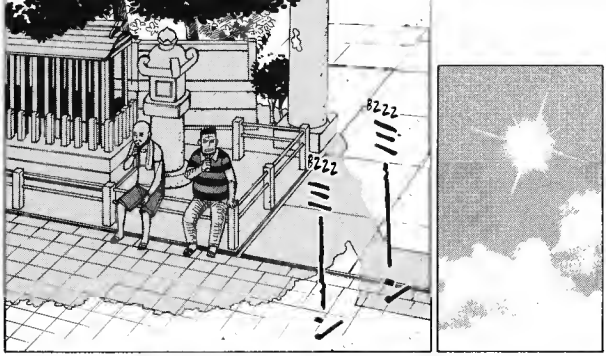


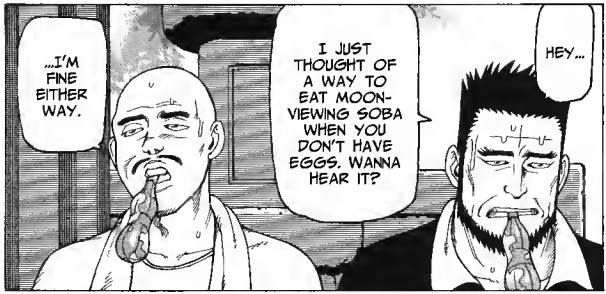


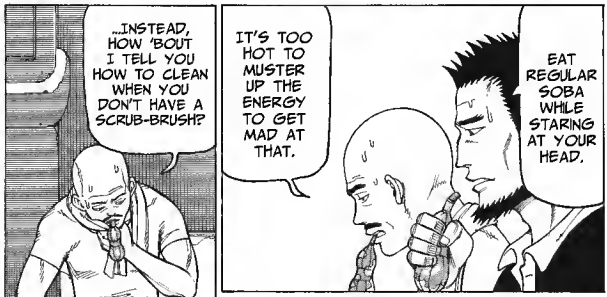
CHAPTER 85 / END

CHAPTER 86
BAD BOYS & FLY GIRLS ENSEMBLE THEATER

※PRONOUNCED "ARA-SHI-YA-MA"


BZZZ
BZZZ


HEY...
I JUST THOUGHT OF A WAY TO EAT MOON-VIEWING SOBA WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE EGGS. WANNA HEAR IT?
...I'M FINE EITHER WAY.


EAT REGULAR SOBA WHILE STARING AT YOUR HEAD.
IT'S TOO HOT TO MUSTER UP THE ENERGY TO GET MAD AT THAT.
...INSTEAD, HOW 'BOUT I TELL YOU HOW TO CLEAN WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE A SCRUB-BRUSH?

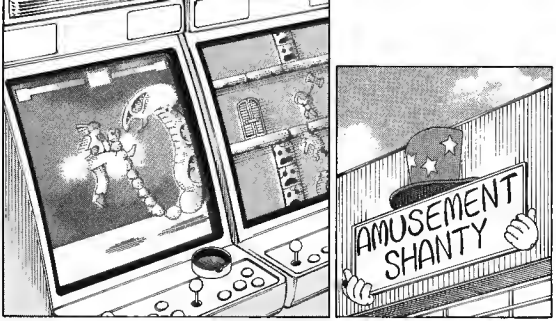
APRON: ARAI DRY CLEANING

※ARAI'S WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME

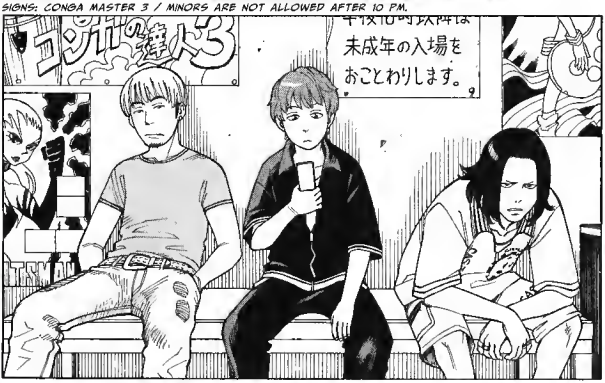
NOT AGAIN...
HUH?!
YOU MEAN... MASUYO DID THAT?! I NEVER KNEW THAT UNTIL THIS VERY MOMENT...!
YOU KNOW, LIKE THE GRAFFITI ON THE GYM BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL...

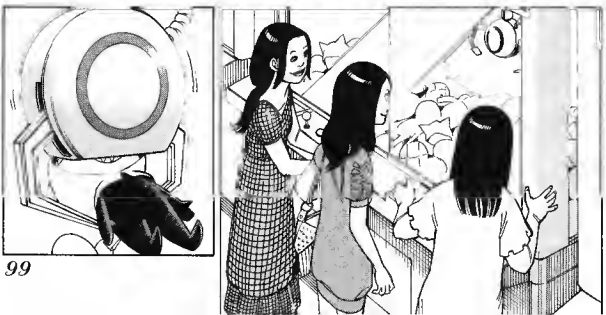
IT SURE IS HOT.

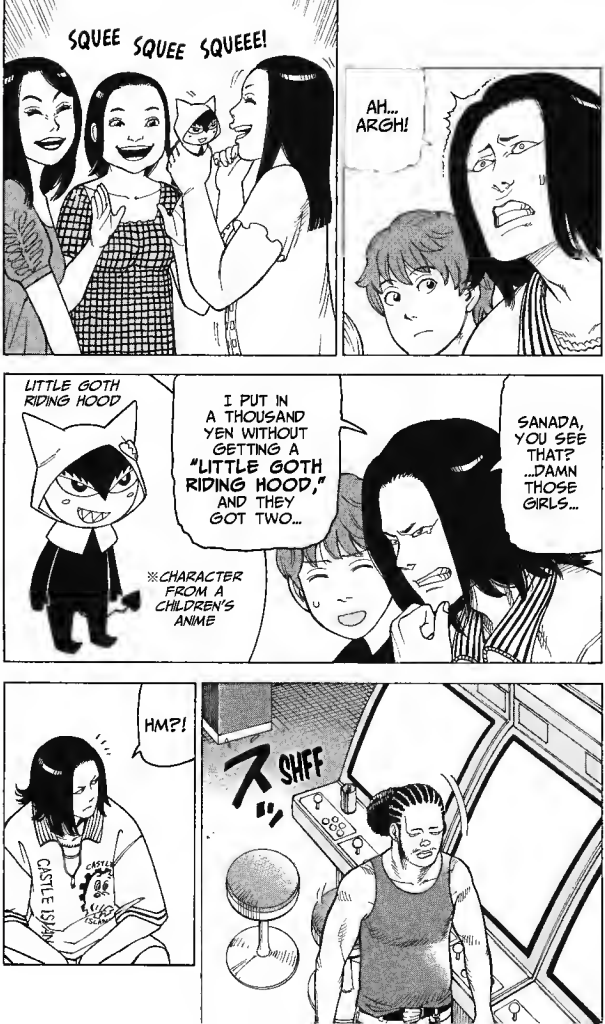
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, YOU FORMER DELIN-QUENT...
PATROL AROUND SO THE BOYS AND GIRLS ON SUMMER BREAK DON'T TURN INTO DELIN-QUENTS.
A COP SHOULDN'T BE CHEWING THE FAT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
EVERY-WHERE I GO, PEOPLE SAY, "IT SURE IS HOT." I'M GETTING SICK OF IT.



SIGNS: CONGA MASTER 3 / MINORS ARE NOT ALLOWED AFTER 10 P.M.



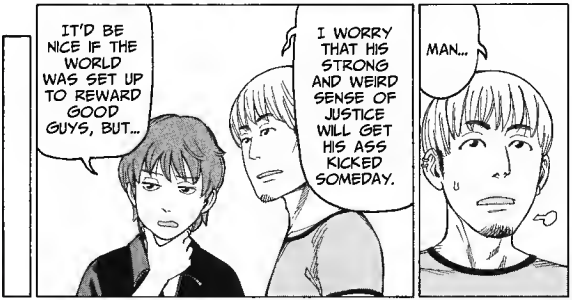


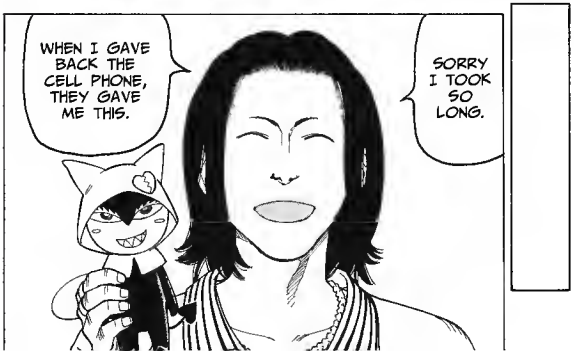

SQUEE SQUEE SQUEEE!
AH... ARGH!
LITTLE GOTH RIDING HOOD
I PUT IN A THOUSAND YEN WITHOUT GETTING A "LITTLE GOTH RIDING HOOD," AND THEY GOT TWO...
※CHARACTER FROM A CHILDREN'S ANIME
SANADA, YOU SEE THAT? ...DAMN THOSE GIRLS...
HM?!
CASTLE ISLAND
SHFF

CAN: NINJA CICADA SHELL COFFEE

GUYS WHO DO STUFF LIKE THAT WILL HAVE BAD KARMA LATER (PROBABLY). LET IT GO, JOUSHIMA!
BUT WON'T HE JUST DO IT AGAIN?!
CLUNK
スコーン
SEE? I'M THROW-ING IT AWAY.
NO NEED TO GET HOSTILE!

THEY'RE PROBABLY STILL NEARBY, SO I'LL TAKE IT TO THEM.
THOSE GIRLS MUST'VE FORGOTTEN THIS.
HEY, HEY...


IT'D BE NICE IF THE WORLD WAS SET UP TO REWARD GOOD GUYS, BUT...
I WORRY THAT HIS STRONG AND WEIRD SENSE OF JUSTICE WILL GET HIS ASS KICKED SOMEDAY.
MAN...


WHEN I GAVE BACK THE CELL PHONE, THEY GAVE ME THIS.
SORRY I TOOK SO LONG.

THERE ARE THREE OF THEM, SO IF YOU'RE FREE, SANADA...
M-ME TOO?!
THEY INVITED ME TO HANG OUT WITH THEM TOMORROW.
WHOA! THEY DID?!
THE GIRLS SAID THEY'RE THIRD-YEARS AT ST. HELENS ACADEMY.
CASTLE ISLAND
Sure is hot lately. Wanna go to the pool tomorrow?
IT'S A TEXT FROM ASA!
ヴィーヴィー
RRR
RRR
I'M IN!
SNAP
パシ

SPLASH GARDEN AJIRO
WOO HOO! IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I'VE BEEN TO A POOL THIS BIG!

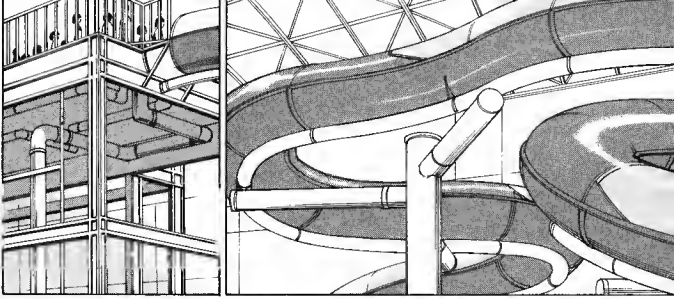
UM, ARASHI-YAMA-SAN...
OW... YOU'RE PINCHING MY BACK!

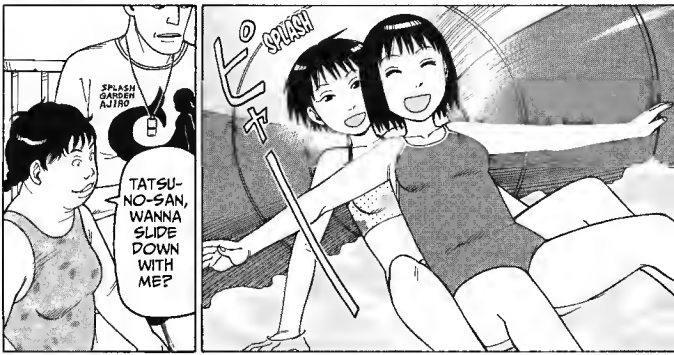
YOU TOLD ME SANADA-KUN WOULD BE HERE! WHY ISN'T HE?
HUH...? BEATS ME. WAJIMA-SAN'S THE ONE WHO CONTACTED EVERYONE.

GUH... BECAUSE SANADA DIDN'T COME, I'M THE ONLY GUY IN THE GROUP.
YEAH... HE HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DO...
ASAI-KUN WAS SUPPOSED TO GET AHOLD OF SANADA-KUN.
OOO LOOK, HE'S WITH THE GIRLS!
KIDS IN HIS HEAD
I GET TO REAP THE REWARDS OF SEEING TATSUNO IN A SWIMSUIT, BUT... THIS FEELS AWKWARD... AND EMBARRASSING...
WHAA?!
I... UH... DO WEIGHT TRAINING...
HMM... CAN I TOUCH THEM?
HEY, ASAI, HOW DID YOU GET SUCH HUGE MUSCLES?

SO THIS IS HOW MUSCLES TURN OUT WHEN YOU SPECIFICALLY DO WEIGHT TRAINNG INSTEAD OF JUST SPORTS...
PRESS
ベタッ
YOWZA!
IS THE BELL RINGING TO ANNOUNCE THAT MY TIME HAS ARRIVED?!
リンゴ
DOES THIS MEAN I'M POPULAR NOW?!
RINNNNG
WHOOOOA!! A GIRL'S RUNNING HER BARE HANDS OVER MY NAKED BODY!! SUMMER REALLY MAKES YOU DARING!!
GOOOONG
ゴーン
BELL ANNOUNCING THAT ASAI'S TIME HAS ENDED.
I HOPE THOSE OVERBUILT MUSCLES CAN SERVE SOME PURPOSE.

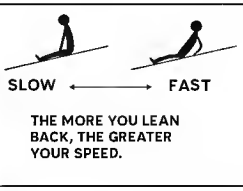
TATSUNO-SAN, AREN'T YOU GONNA SWIM?
I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT SWIMMING.
WHEW...
HEY, HEY!
WE WENT ON THE WATER SLIDE!
IT WAS PRETTY FUN!
YOU REALLY GOTTA TRY THE SLIDE!
COME ON, TATSUNO-SAN!
GET YOUR ENTRY FEE'S WORTH!
NO, I'LL PASS.




SPLASH GARDEN AJIRO
TATSU-NO-SAN, WANNA SLIDE DOWN WITH ME?
SPLASH
ピャー

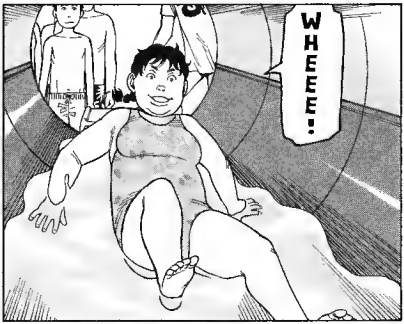
IT'S NOT A CON-TEST.
GET THE HANG OF IT.
NO, I'LL TRY GOING BY MYSELF FIRST.

GULP
ゴクリ
FAST
THE MORE YOU LEAN
BACK, THE GREATER
YOUR SPEED.

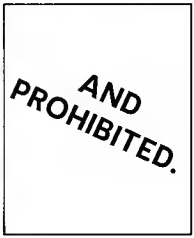

SLOW
FAST
THE MORE YOU LEAN
BACK, THE GREATER
YOUR SPEED.

PRONE POSITION IS TOO FAST.
THIS IS DANGEROUS AND PROHIBITED.

PRONE POSITION
IS TOO FAST.
THIS IS DANGEROUS

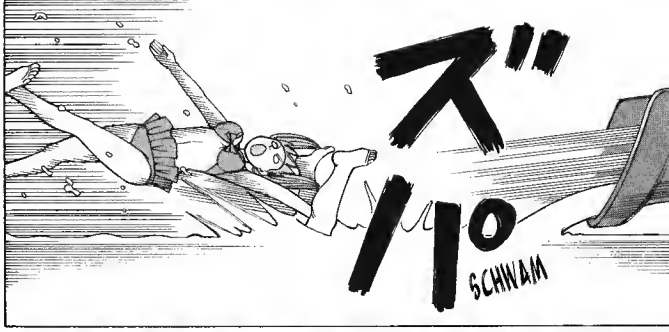

WHEEE!

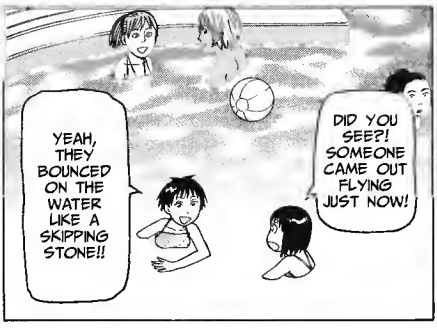
YAAAY!


AND
PROHIBITED.

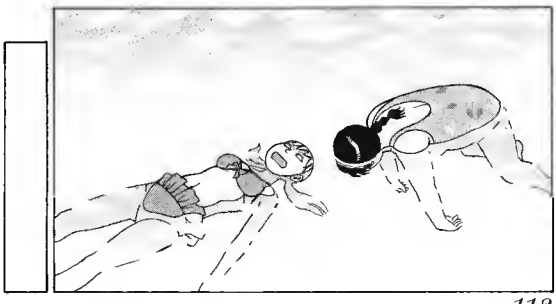
THIS REALLY IS FAST!!
I'VE CAUGHT UP WITH HER ALREADY!
ギャン
WHOOSH
ドコ
THUNK
DWAH!!
EH?
TATSU-NO-SAN, WHAAA-AAAM!
H-HEY! WAJIMA-SAN, STOP...

THIS IS VERY DANGEROUS!
DON'T DO IT YOURSELF.


ズッ
SCHWAM

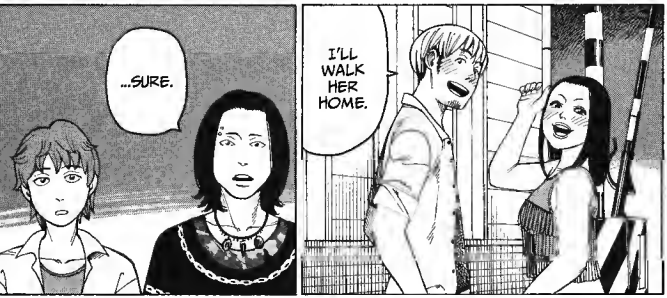

YEAH, THEY BOUNCED ON THE WATER LIKE A SKIPPING STONE!!
DID YOU SEE?! SOMEONE CAME OUT FLYING JUST NOW!

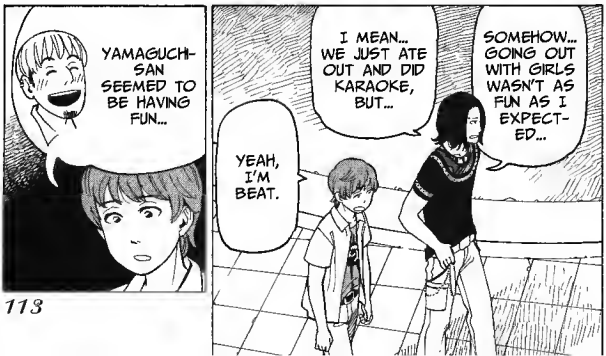
WOW! AMAZ-ING!



SIGN: HASUMO...

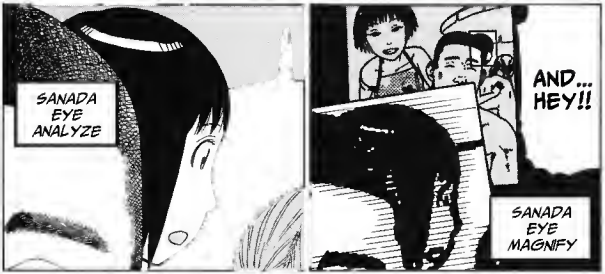
SIGN: TOKYO EXPRESS

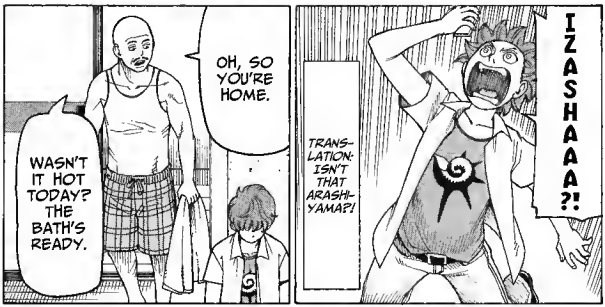



YAMAGUCHI-SAN SEEMED TO BE HAVING FUN...
YEAH, I'M BEAT.
I MEAN... WE JUST ATE OUT AND DID KARAOKE, BUT...
SOMEHOW... GOING OUT WITH GIRLS WASN'T AS FUN AS I EXPECT-ED...

YOU WEREN'T WRONG ABOUT THAT.
...THEY CALLED ME A BUZZKILL.
WHEN I WARNED THEM ABOUT UNDERAGE DRINKING...
MAYBE WE'RE JUST NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS STUFF.
NEXT TIME... LET'S GO FISHING OR BOWLING, JUST US GUYS.
YEAH.
LITTLE GOTH RIDING HOOD'S ENOUGH FOR ME.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF GIRLS FOR THE PRESENT...
TEL
37XX-54XX
TAKE IT EASY!
YEAH... OKAY, LATER.

ヴィーヴィー
RRR
RRR
IT'S A TEXT.
FROM ASAI, HUH... IF I'D KNOWN IT'D TURN OUT LIKE THIS, I'D HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF JUST GOING TO THE POOL WITH HIM.
SORRY, ASAI.
?!!
I was the only guy, but it was more fun than I expected ^o^)
HUH...? WHA...? HEY, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
ヨロ…
STAGGER
WHAT THE?!
WHO ALL WENT TO THE POOL TODAY?!

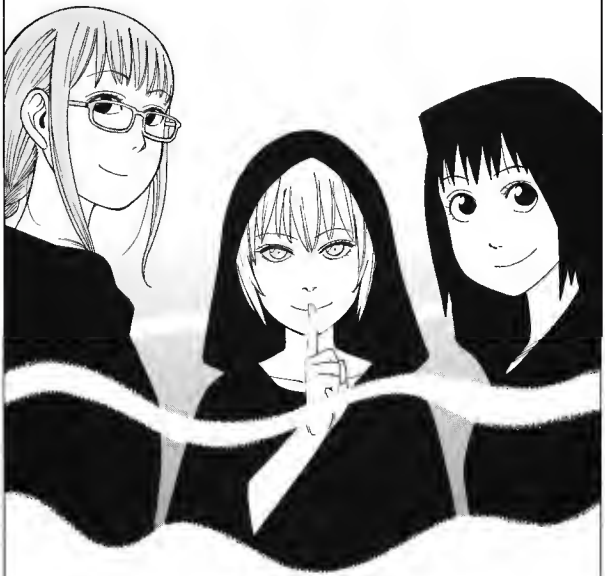




CHAPTER 86 / END

CAMP JOSEPHINE

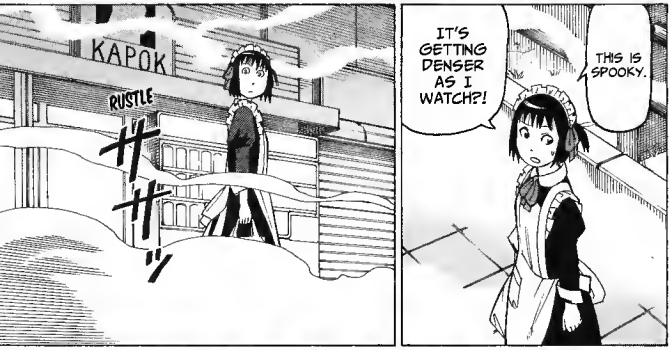
CHAPTER 87 THE CONSPIRACY IS IN THE FOG

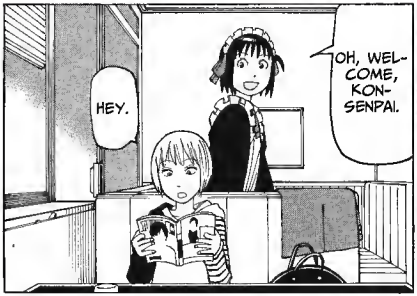


SIGN: 'UNAGI KABAYAKI KAI' RESTAURANT / CURTAIN: 'KABAYAKI'

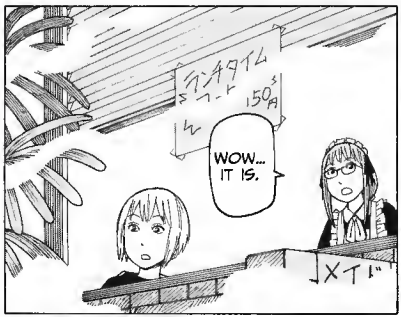
NOTE: 'UNAGI' IS FRESHWATER EEL. 'UNAGI KABAYAKI' IS THE EEL MARINATED IN A SOY-BASED SAUCE, THEN GRILLED.

SIGN: KAPOK BREAD

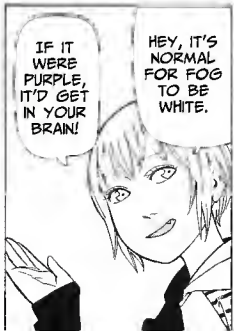


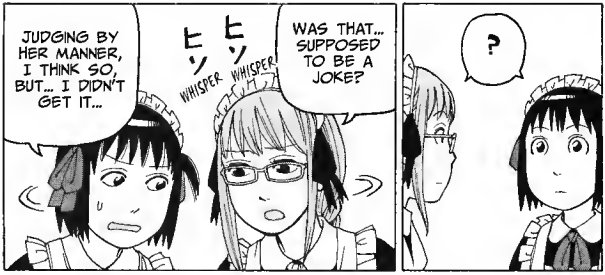


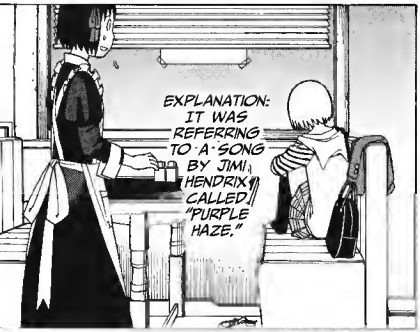
SIGN: COFFEE SEASIDE



SIGN: LUNCHTIME COFFEE ¥150




JUDGING BY HER MANNER, I THINK SO, BUT... I DIDN'T GET IT...
ヒソ WHISPER
ヒソ WHISPER
WAS THAT... SUPPOSED TO BE A JOKE?
?


EXPLANATION: IT WAS REFERRING TO A SONG BY JIMI HENDRIX CALLED "PURPLE HAZE."

UM... COULD YOU EXPLAIN WHAT WAS FUNNY ABOUT THE FUNNY THING YOU JUST SAID?
...

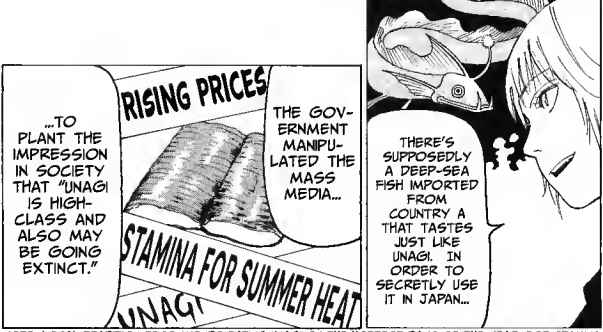
I FEEL LIKE I CAN WIN!!
...AND RAN OFF TO PLAY PACHINKO.

OH, SHE SUDDENLY YELLED...
A-ANYWAY, WHERE'S GRAN?

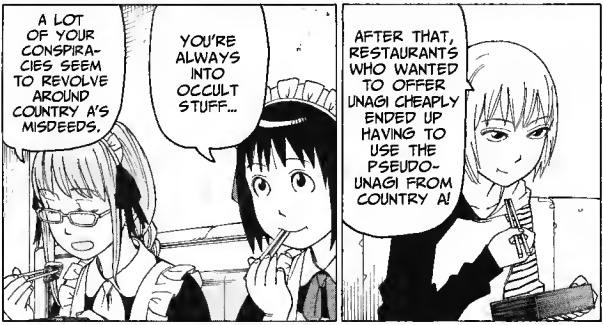
SHE ORDERS ME TO RUN AN ERRAND...
...BUT WHEN I GET BACK, SHE'S GONE. GRAN'S SO FREE-SPIRITED.
OKAY, THEN THIS IS PERFECT: I'LL GIVE GRAN'S MEAL TO KON-SENPAI.

NO, I COULDN'T... NOT WHEN IT'S GRAN'S FOOD.
IT'S FINE, REALLY. GRAN WOULD GET MAD IF I *DIDN'T* TREAT YOU IN THIS SITUATION.

EVER SINCE I GOT TAKEN TO EAT UNAGI IN THE SUMMER, IT FEELS LIKE THERE'S BEEN AN UNAGI BOOM.
I MUST SAY, IT DID SEEM MORE LUXURI-OUS THAN YOUR USUAL TASTES, HOTORI.
DO YOU GUYS KNOW WHY UNAGI IS EXPENSIVE?

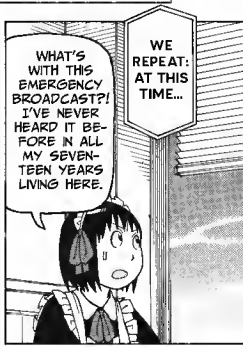

RISING PRICES
STAMINA FOR SUMMER HEAT
UNAGI
...TO PLANT THE IMPRESSION IN SOCIETY THAT "UNAGI IS HIGH-CLASS AND ALSO MAY BE GOING EXTINCT."
THE GOVERNMENT MANIPULATED THE MASS MEDIA...
THERE'S SUPPOSEDLY A DEEP-SEA FISH IMPORTED FROM COUNTRY A THAT TASTES JUST LIKE UNAGI. IN ORDER TO SECRETLY USE IT IN JAPAN...

NOTE: LOCAL TRADITION RECOMMENDS EATING UNAGI ON THE HOTTEST DAYS OF THE YEAR, FOR STAMINA.


A LOT OF YOUR CONSPIRACIES SEEM TO REVOLVE AROUND COUNTRY A'S MISDEEDS.
YOU'RE ALWAYS INTO OCCULT STUFF...
AFTER THAT, RESTAURANTS WHO WANTED TO OFFER UNAGI CHEAPLY ENDED UP HAVING TO USE THE PSEUDO-UNAGI FROM COUNTRY A!

BECAUSE OF THE DANGER, PLEASE REFRAIN FROM GOING OUTSIDE.
AT THIS TIME, VISIBILITY IS EXTREMELY LIMITED DUE TO THICK FOG.
THIS IS... OHTA WARD DISASTER PREVENTION...

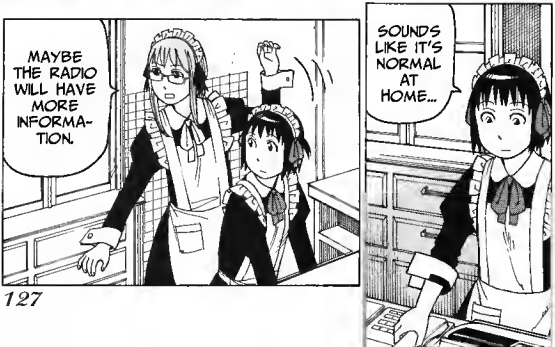
YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING OUTSIDE AT ALL NOW...


WHAT'S WITH THIS EMERGENCY BROADCAST?! I'VE NEVER HEARD IT BEFORE IN ALL MY SEVENTEEN YEARS LIVING HERE.
WE REPEAT: AT THIS TIME...

I'LL TRY CALLING HOME...

...REALLY GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT? I'M A BIT SCARED...
ARE WE...

...YEAH, WE'RE ALL IN-DOORS.
DAD ISN'T BACK YET.
OH, SIS?
BRRRING
WE'VE BROUGHT JOSIE INSIDE, TOO.
YEAH, WE'RE JUST FINE...
EXCEPT YUKIKO'S MAKING A FUSS.
IT'S ALL WHITE! LET'S GO OUTSIDE!!
I TOLD YOU, NO!


MAYBE THE RADIO WILL HAVE MORE INFORMA-TION.
SOUNDS LIKE IT'S NORMAL AT HOME...

MAKE CERTAIN THAT THERE ARE NO CIVILIANS WITHIN THE ENVIRONS.
THERE'S ONE!
SQUAD C, ONE CAPTURE!
CAUGHT IT!
ALL RIGHT...

AN ACCIDENT REPORT HAS COME IN.
TO CON-TINUE...
THOUGH THERE WERE NO INJURIES, THE PICKUP TRUCK FELL ON ITS SIDE...
...THERE WAS A MINOR COLLISION BETWEEN A VAN AND A PICKUP TRUCK.
THIS EVENING AROUND SIX O'CLOCK, ON A ROAD IN TOKYO'S OHTA WARD...
WOW, THAT'S CLOSE BY!
OH!
...AND SIX OF THE RABBITS IT HAD BEEN TRANS-PORTING REPORT-EDLY ESCAPED.

MAYBE THAT ACCIDENT WAS DUE TO THE FOG?

MAYBE THAT WAS ONE OF THOSE RAB-BITS?
LIKE, RUSTLE, RUSTLE.
I SAW THIS WHITISH THING MOVING.
THAT REMINDS ME. WHEN I WAS COMING BACK WITH THE FOOD EARLIER...

FOG'S JUST WEATHER. YOU'RE TOO SKITTISH, TATSUNO.

SO THE ACCIDENT AND FOG AREN'T CONNECT-ED.
I LEFT TO BUY THE MEALS AT SIX O'CLOCK, AND THERE WAS NO FOG THEN.
DIDN'T THEY SAY THE ACCIDENT WAS AROUND SIX O'CLOCK?

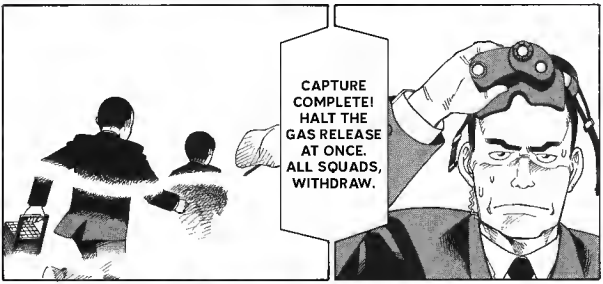
OH!
WE APPEAR TO HAVE A DENSE FOG WARNING FOR THE KANTO AREA.

...THIS FOG MUST'VE BEEN A BLESSING FROM HEAVEN.
FROM THE ESCAPED RABBITS' POINT OF VIEW...
THEY SLIPPED INTO THE FOG CRYING, "FREEDOM!"

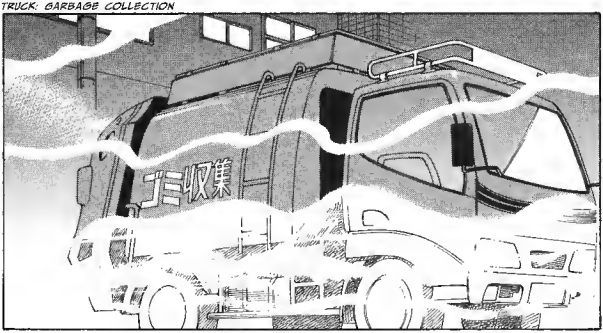
IT FELT LIKE ALL OF TOKYO MUST BE WRAPPED IN FOG...
IT'S JUST OHTA WARD.
...THAT'S ALL.
JOLT
THIS WARNING COVERS THE FOLLOWING AREAS: OHTA WARD...

GEH, I MIGHT HAVE TROUBLE GETTING HOME.
PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC REPORT.
IN ADDITION, DUE TO THE FOG, A NUMBER OF TRANS-PORTATION SERVICES HAVE SUSPENDED OPERATION.

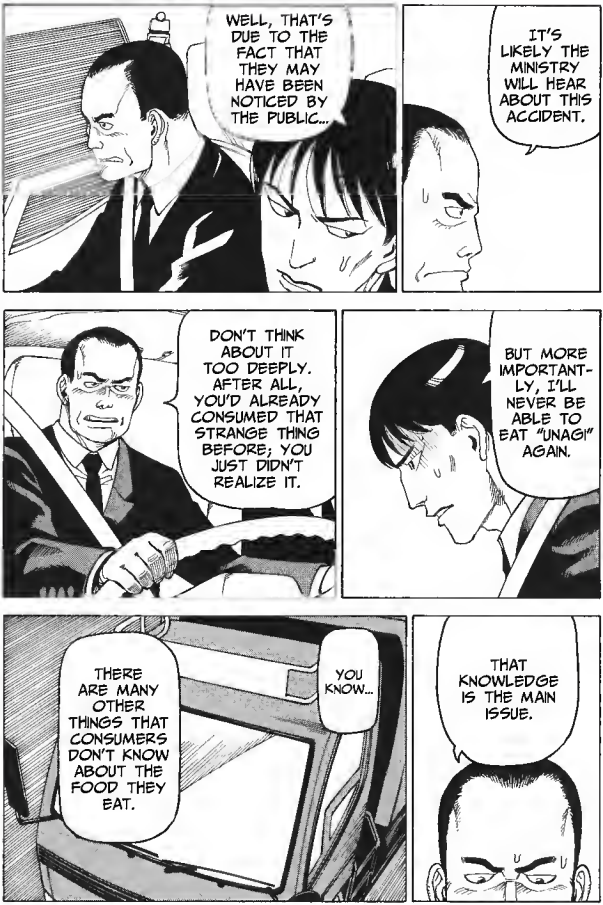
OH, THERE ARE PLENTY OF GLOBAL WARMING CONSPIRA-CIES.
COULD THIS WEIRD WEATHER BE AN EFFECT OF GLOBAL WARMING?
ENOUGH OF THOSE THINGS.



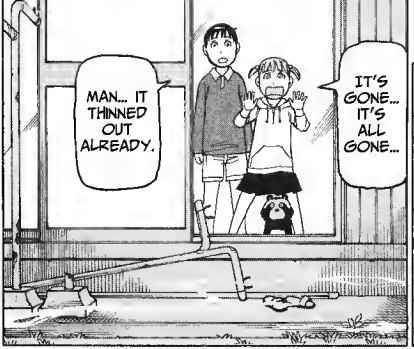
TRUCK: GARBAGE COLLECTION

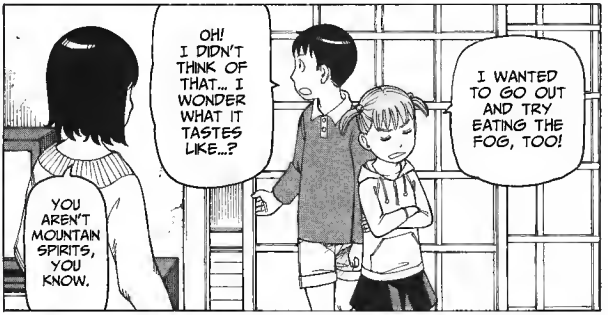


SLAM
バタン
CLUNK
もくもく
CLUNK
SHUT
WHEN I HEARD THAT THE TRUCK WAS IN AN ACCIDENT DURING TRANSPORT...
...I WONDERED WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN.
IT WAS A SMALL MERCY THAT ONLY SIX OF THEM ESCAPED.

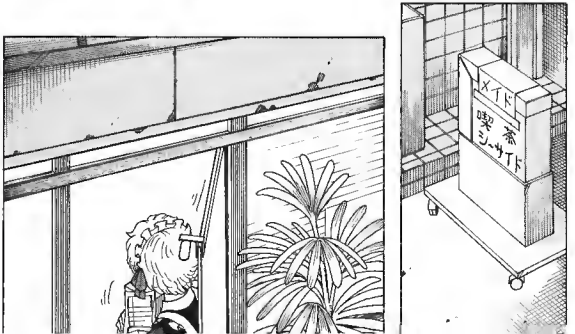

WELL, THAT'S DUE TO THE FACT THAT THEY MAY HAVE BEEN NOTICED BY THE PUBLIC...
IT'S LIKELY THE MINISTRY WILL HEAR ABOUT THIS ACCIDENT.
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT TOO DEEPLY. AFTER ALL, YOU'D ALREADY CONSUMED THAT STRANGE THING BEFORE; YOU JUST DIDN'T REALIZE IT.
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO EAT "UNAGI" AGAIN.
THERE ARE MANY OTHER THINGS THAT CONSUMERS DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE FOOD THEY EAT.
YOU KNOW...
THAT KNOWLEDGE IS THE MAIN ISSUE.

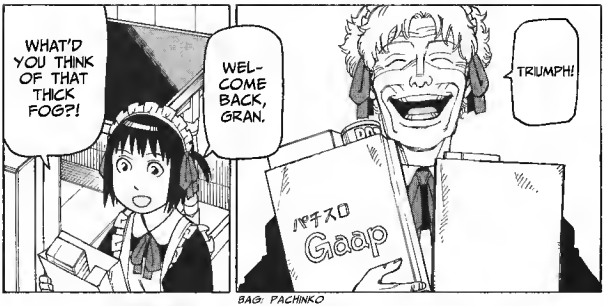
SIGN: MAID CAFE SEASIDE




YOU AREN'T MOUNTAIN SPIRITS, YOU KNOW.
OH! I DIDN'T THINK OF THAT... I WONDER WHAT IT TASTES LIKE...?
I WANTED TO GO OUT AND TRY EATING THE FOG, TOO!

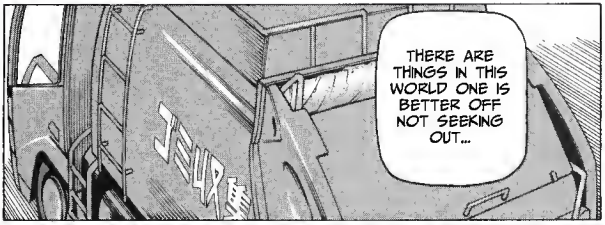
SIGN: MAID CAFE SEASIDE

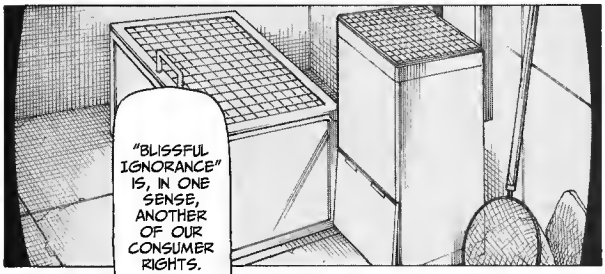


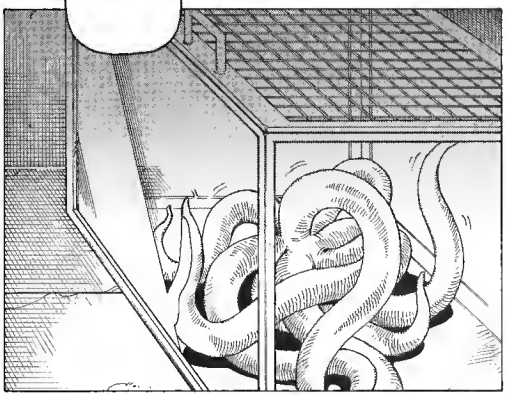


BAG: PACHINKO

YOU SURE MOVE AT YOUR OWN PACE, GRAN.
TO NOT EVEN NOTICE THAT...
IT VANISHED QUICKLY!
I ONLY JUST STEPPED BACK OUTSIDE. THERE WAS NOTHING LIKE THAT OUT THERE.

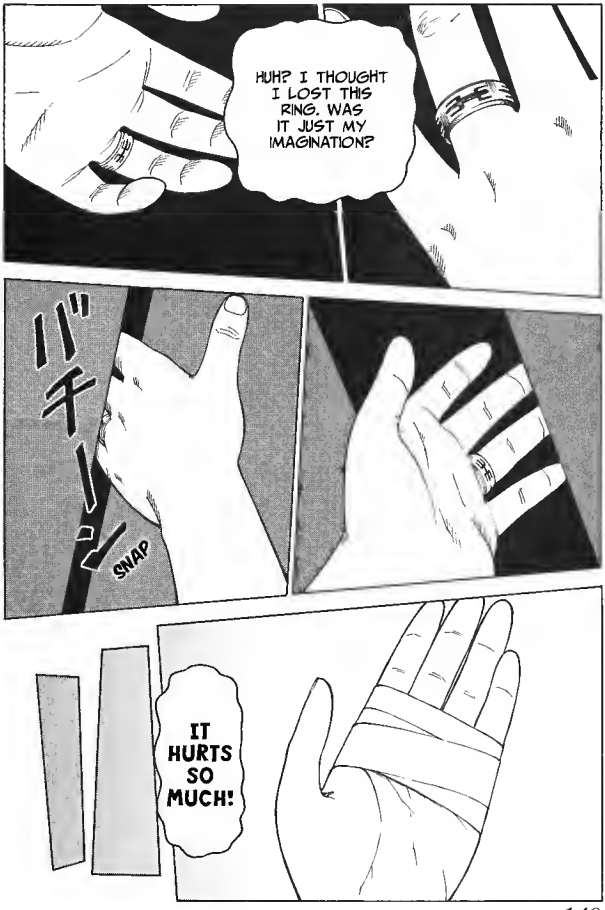




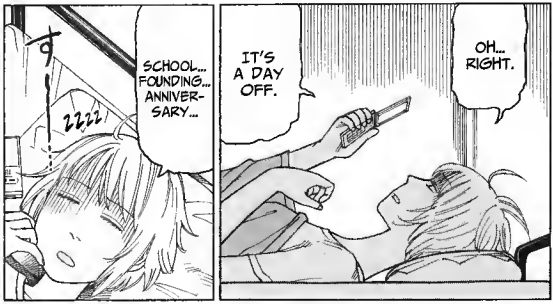


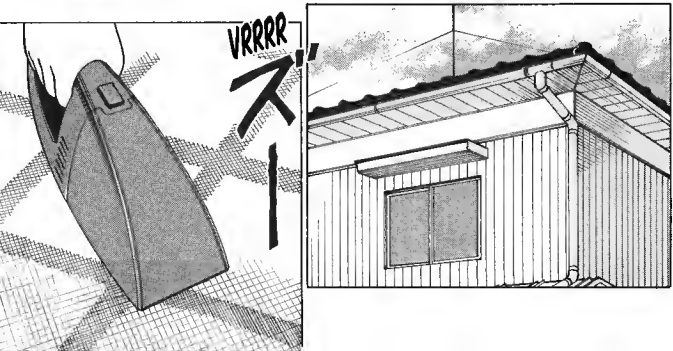
CHAPTER 87 / END

CHAPTER 88
MIRACLE SUPER LUCKY RING

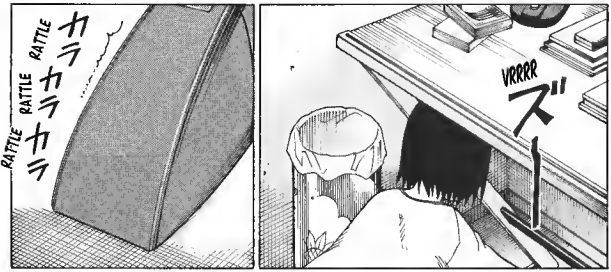

HUH? I THOUGHT I LOST THIS RING. WAS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION?
バキーン
SNAP
IT HURTS SO MUCH!

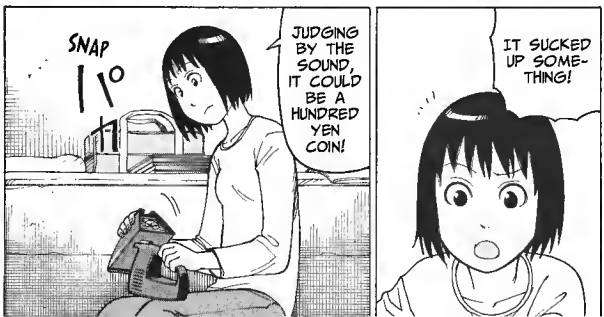
URG...
THAT FREAKED ME OUT.
JUST A DREAM?
ぱち
BLINK
OW!


すー
ZZZZ
SCHOOL... FOUNDING... ANNIVER-SARY...
IT'S A DAY OFF.
OH... RIGHT.


VRRRR
ズー

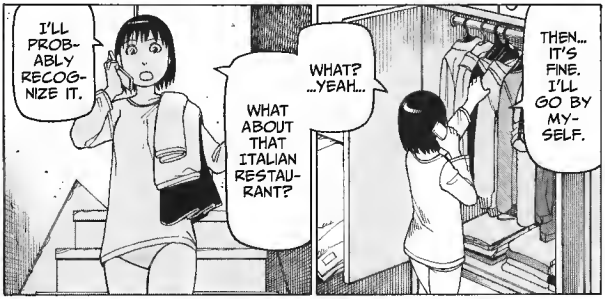
VRRRR
ズー


RATTLE
RATTLE
カラカラカラ
VRRRR
ズー


SNAP
パカ
JUDGING BY THE SOUND, IT COULD BE A HUNDRED YEN COIN!
IT SUCKED UP SOME-THING!

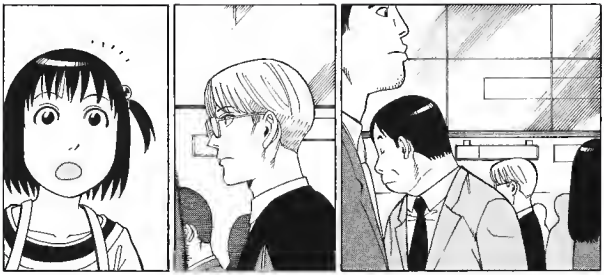
...KON-SENPAI'S RING?
ISN'T THIS...
HUH?
NOT THE MIDDLE ONE...
WONDER IF IT'LL FIT ANY OF MY FINGERS.
OH!
SHE MUST'VE LEFT IT BEHIND WHEN SHE SPENT THE NIGHT HERE RECENTLY.
BUT FIRST...
CLICK
カチ
カチ
CLICK
I'LL GO RETURN IT THIS EVENING.
IT'S A PERFECT FIT! I DOUBT IT'LL FALL OFF.

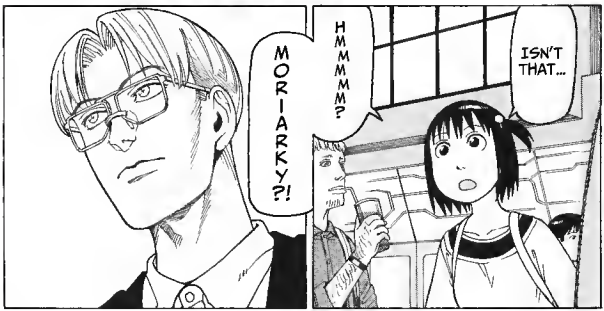
HEY, TA-TSUN.
YOU READY TO HEAD OUT?
WHAT?! YOU CAUGHT A COLD?! AND ON A DAY OFF SCHOOL TOO...
OH, NO, I NEVER CATCH COLDS, NOT EVEN WHEN THE SEASONS CHANGE!

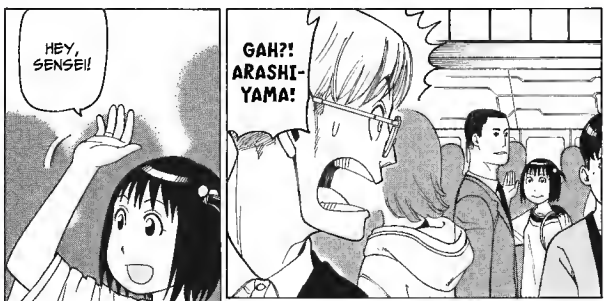

THEN... IT'S FINE. I'LL GO BY MY-SELF.
WHAT? ...YEAH...
WHAT ABOUT THAT ITALIAN RESTAU-RANT?
I'LL PROB-ABLY RECOG-NIZE IT.

TASTE TEST?!
DO THAT YOUR-SELF!
I'M HEAD-ING OUT!

渋池駅
PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP WHEN LEAVING THE TRAIN...
GOING INTO TOWN ON A WEEKDAY AFTERNOON FEELS SO NEW AND EXCITING.
SIGN: SHIBUIKE STATION
ALSO, MAYBE IT'S THE RING'S INFLUENCE, BUT I FEEL LIKE I'VE GOTTEN MORE DARING.
IT'S AMAZING HOW JUST ONE ACCESSORY CAN HAVE THAT EFFECT ON ME.
THUMP
ドキ
ドキ
THUMP
ALL RIGHT! MAYBE I'LL BUY AN EVEN NICER OUTFIT THAN USUAL!



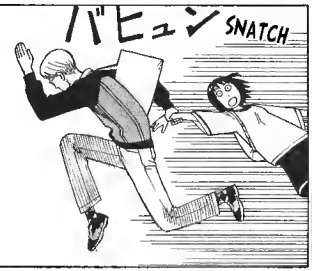

ISN'T THAT...
HMMMMM?
MORIARKY?!


HEY, SENSEI!
GAH?! ARASHI-YAMA!

.....
.....

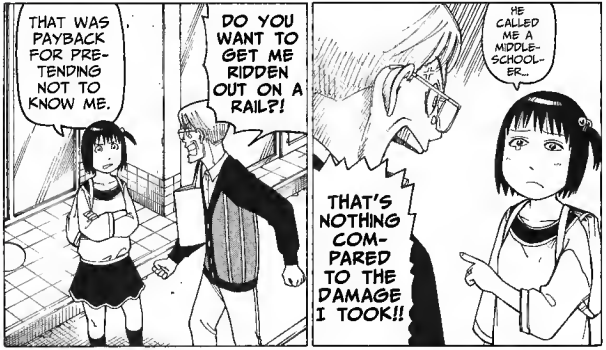
HM? DON'T YOU HAVE THE WRONG GUY?
HI, SENSEI!

?!
SENSEI! HOW COULD YOU GO OUT WITH SOME B-KO FROM CLASS B WHEN YOU HAVE ME?! YOU'RE MEAN!

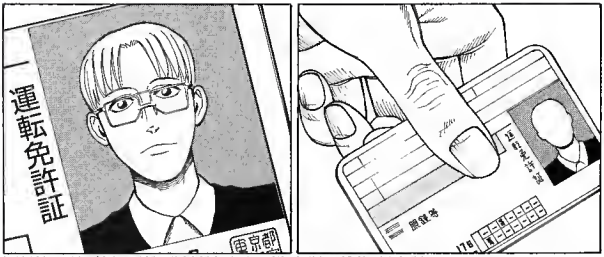

バヒュン SNATCH

PSST PSST
PSST PSST
PSST
ヒソヒソ
ヒソヒソ
SO HE'S ONE OF THOSE SHAME-LESS TYPES, THEN.
GOOD-NESS.. A TEACHER DATING A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT...

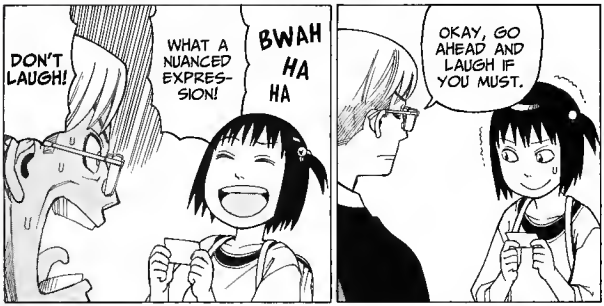
WARASHAAA!!
TRANS-LATION: WHY, YOU! ARASHI-YAMA!!

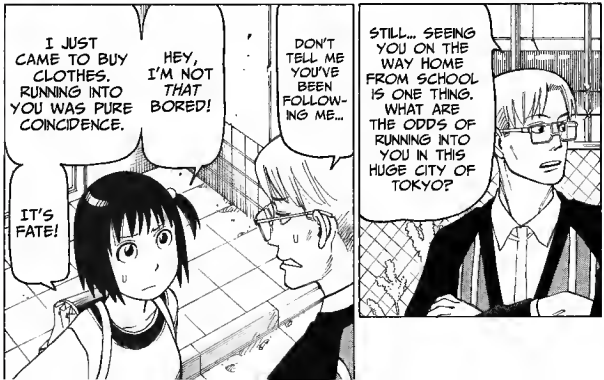

HE CALLED ME A MIDDLE-SCHOOL-ER...
THAT'S NOTHING COM-PARED TO THE DAMAGE I TOOK!!
DO YOU WANT TO GET ME RIDDEN OUT ON A RAIL?!
THAT WAS PAYBACK FOR PRE-TENDING NOT TO KNOW ME.

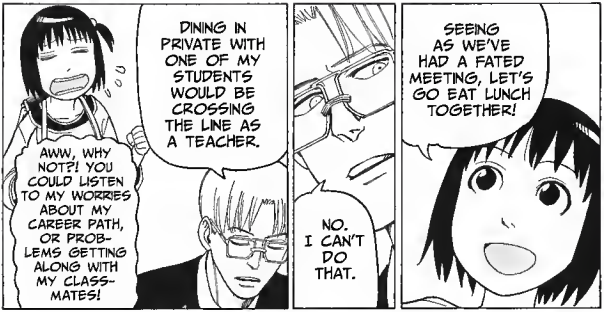
SO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, SENSEI?
IS YOUR HOME NEARBY?
NO... I CAME TO RENEW MY DRIVER'S LICENSE, AND JUST DECIDED TO TAKE A LOOK AROUND WHILE I WAS HERE.
OOH! SHOW ME YOUR LICENSE!



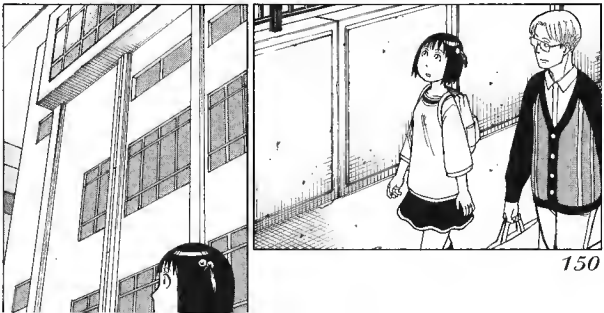
LICENSE: DRIVER'S LICENSE, GLASSES, ETC., TOKYO METROPOLITAN AREA



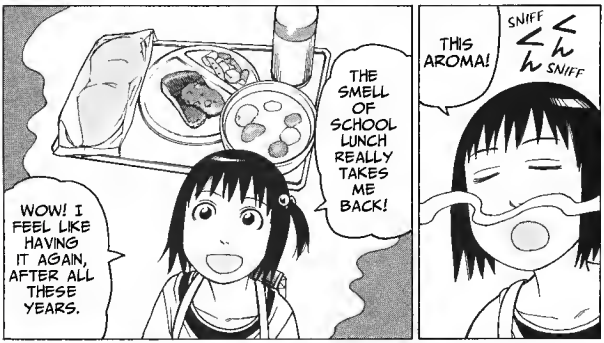

I JUST CAME TO BUY CLOTHES. RUNNING INTO YOU WAS PURE COINCIDENCE.
HEY, I'M NOT THAT BORED!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING ME...
STILL... SEEING YOU ON THE WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL IS ONE THING. WHAT ARE THE ODDS OF RUNNING INTO YOU IN THIS HUGE CITY OF TOKYO?
IT'S FATE!


SEEING AS WE'VE HAD A FATED MEETING, LET'S GO EAT LUNCH TOGETHER!
NO. I CAN'T DO THAT.
DINING IN PRIVATE WITH ONE OF MY STUDENTS WOULD BE CROSSING THE LINE AS A TEACHER.
AWW, WHY NOT?! YOU COULD LISTEN TO MY WORRIES ABOUT MY CAREER PATH, OR PROBLEMS GETTING ALONG WITH MY CLASSMATES!

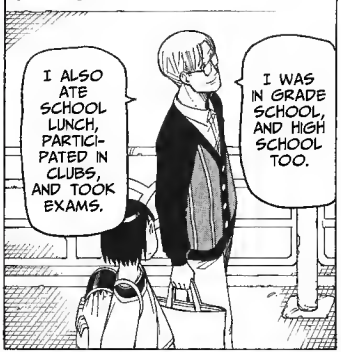
OKAY, I'M WALKING TO THE SUBWAY STATION NOW.
DISCUSS THOSE ALONG THE WAY.
I'LL OFFER WORDS OF ADVICE IF AND WHEN IT SEEMS WARRANTED.
YOU'RE TOO STRAIGHT-LACED!



HUH, THERE'S A SCHOOL HERE.
WONDER IF IT'S A GRADE SCHOOL.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, IT'S A NORMAL WEEKDAY FOR THE REST OF SOCIETY.
WHEN WILL YOU START ON YOUR CAREER PATH CONCERNS?

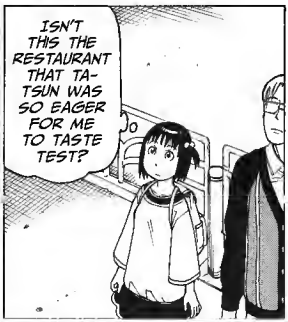

THIS AROMA!
SNIFF
SNIFF
THE SMELL OF SCHOOL LUNCH REALLY TAKES ME BACK!
WOW! I FEEL LIKE HAVING IT AGAIN, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.

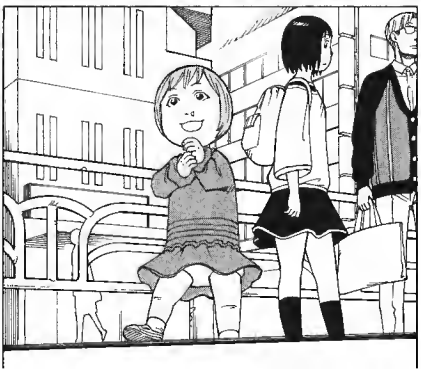
YEAH... THE COMBINED SCENTS OF THOSE PARTICULAR FOODS IS UNIQUE AND UNMISTAKEABLE.



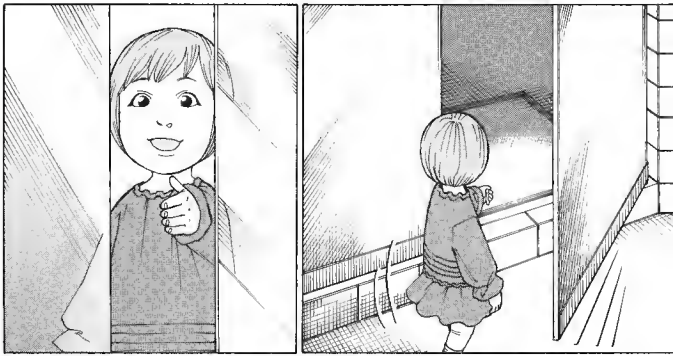
SIGN: STATION

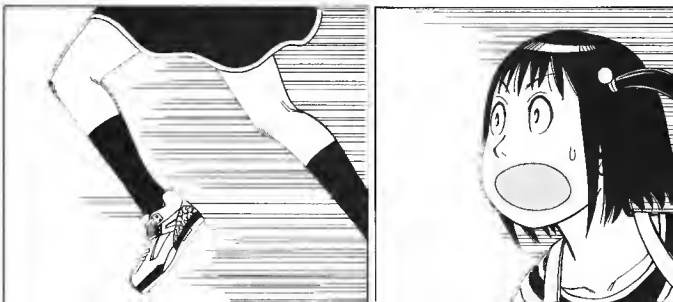
OH...
IT'S
NOTH-
ING.
HM?
WHAT'S
WRONG?
OH!
Pizzicata


ISN'T
THIS THE
RESTAURANT
THAT TA-
TSUN WAS
SO EAGER
FOR ME
TO TASTE
TEST?



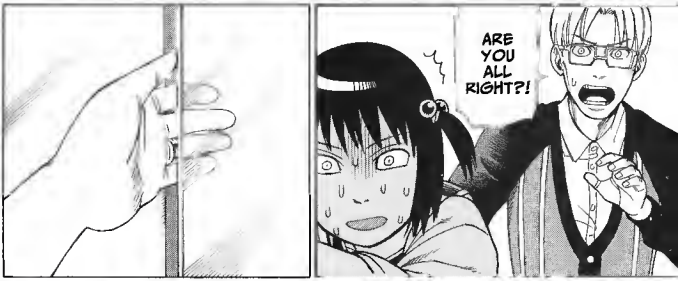
ZIcata
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

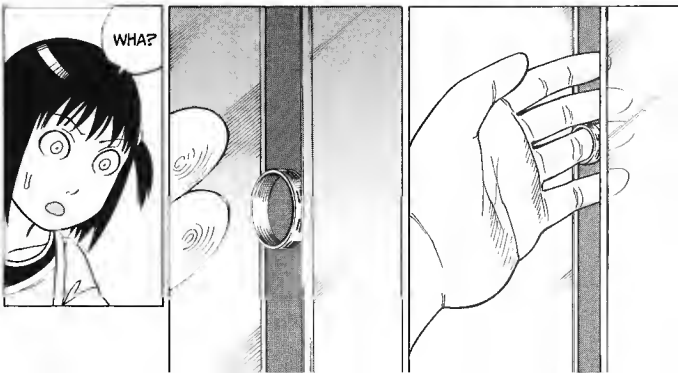




LOOK OUT!
バチーン
SNAP
?
I...
I'VE REALLY DONE IT NOW... FOUR WHOLE FINGERS...

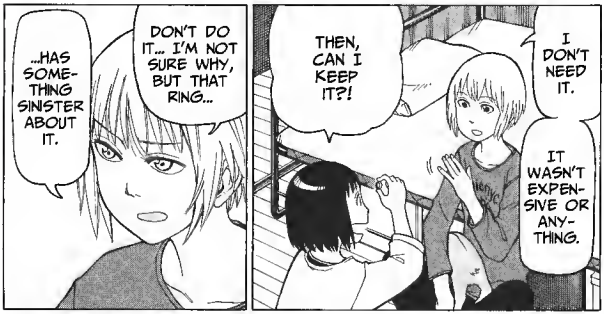
THIS IS BAD... THOUGH I'VE GOT FOUR FINGERS CAUGHT IN THERE, IT DOESN'T HURT AT ALL.
ARE THEY NUMB FROM TOO MUCH PAIN? OR MAYBE...
NOT HURTING IS ACTUALLY SCARIER!
PULL
...IT'S A SHORT GRACE PERIOD BEFORE THE INTENSE PAIN SOON TO COME?
EITHER WAY, IT'S SCARY!

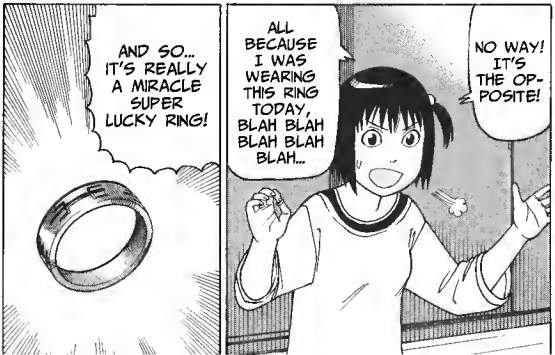

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

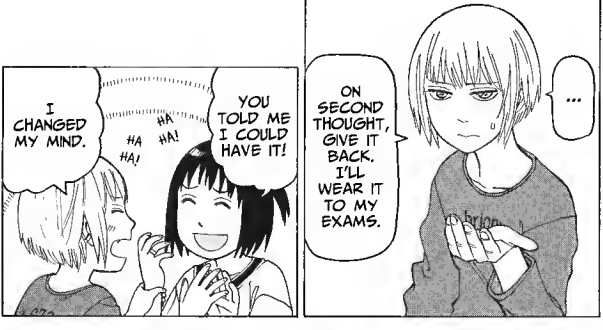

WHA?

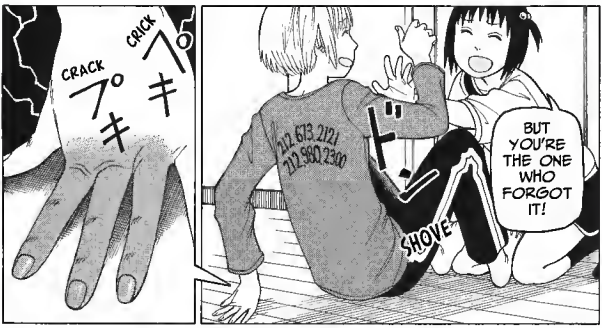
THE RING... THE RING PRO-TECTED ME!
NO INJURY! NO PAIN!
WHOO-OAA!!
THE MIRACLE OF THE RING!
HA HA HA...
RIGHT AS I THOUGHT "LOOK OUT!" MY HAND WAS CAUGHT.
BOW BOW
ペコペコ
I'LL ADVISE YOU ON YOUR CAREER PATH AND CLASS-MATES OVER LUNCH.
Pizzicato
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND.

BUILDING: KAWAI APARTMENTS

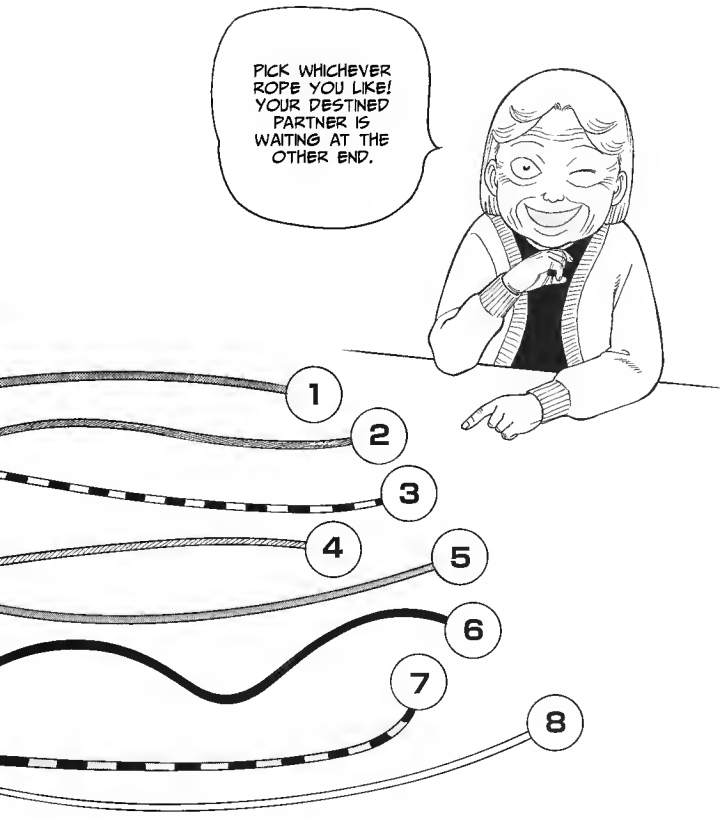

...HAS SOMETHING SINISTER ABOUT IT.
DON'T DO IT... I'M NOT SURE WHY, BUT THAT RING...
THEN, CAN I KEEP IT?!
I DON'T NEED IT.
IT WASN'T EXPENSIVE OR ANYTHING.


AND SO... IT'S REALLY A MIRACLE SUPER LUCKY RING!
ALL BECAUSE I WAS WEARING THIS RING TODAY, BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH...
NO WAY! IT'S THE OPPOSITE!





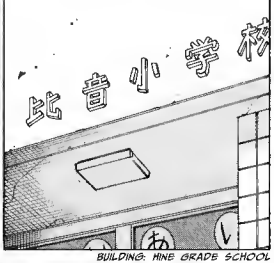
CHAPTER 88 / END



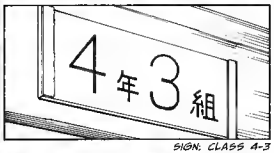
←THE OTHER ENDS OF THE ROPES ARE ON PAGE 186

HMM...
HMM...
BY JOVE, I'VE GOT IT! THE CULPRIT'S MOTIVE!
I JUST DON'T KNOW...
CALL ALL THE CONCERNED PARTIES HERE, PLEASE.

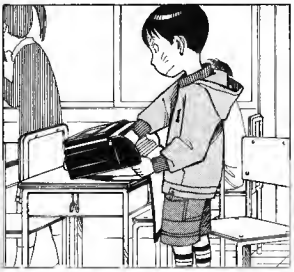
CHAPTER 89
THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND, MODERN VERSION

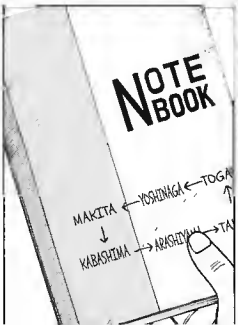


BUILDING: HINE GRADE SCHOOL

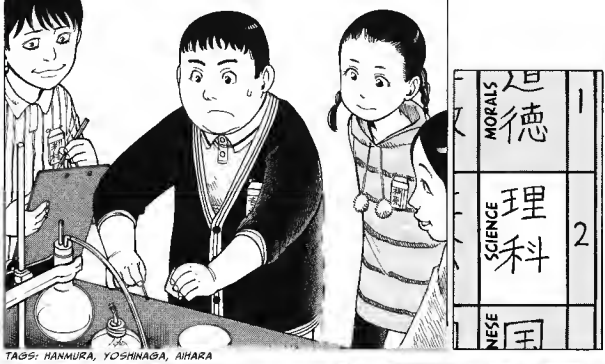


SIGN: CLASS 4-3

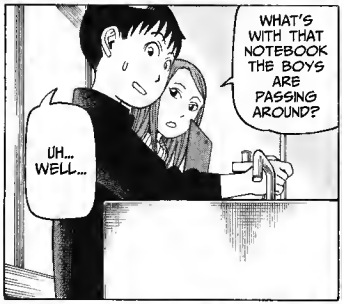


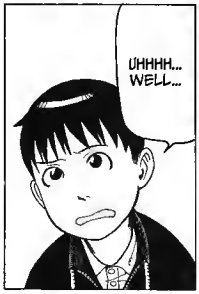


PAPERS: FRIEND



TAGS: HANMURA, YOSHINAGA, AIHARA





IT'S GOT STUFF LIKE "DEMON COLOSSEUM" BATTLE RECORDS...

...AND RESEARCH ON DECKS...

...AND CARD DESIGNS WE THOUGHT UP OURSELVES AND DREW...

※DEMON COLOSSEUM: A CARD GAME POPULAR AMONG CHILDREN

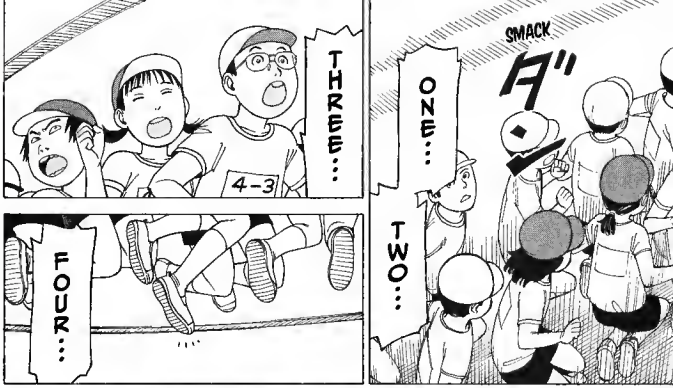
BUT IT'S EMBARRASSING TO EVEN CONSIDER EXPLAINING THAT TO A GIRL.

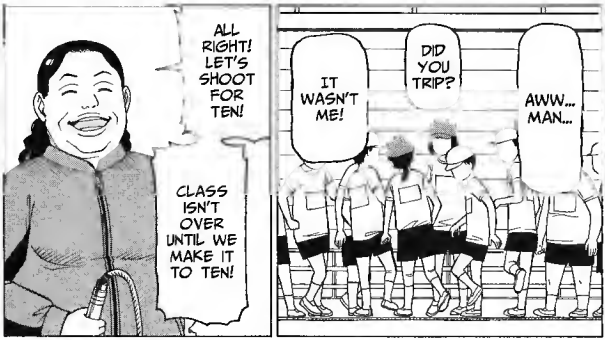
YEAH... I GUESS IT'S LIKE AN EXCHANGE DIARY.

SLAP

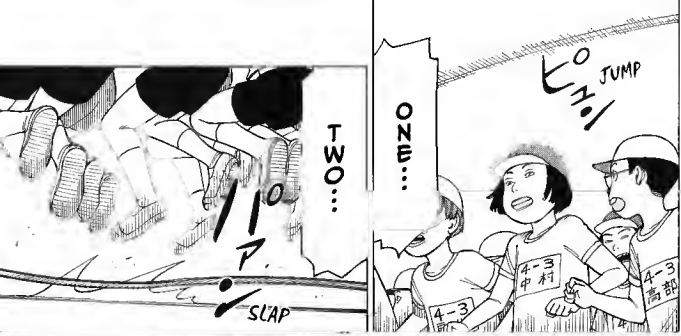
パン

図工 ART	国語 JAPANESE	3
図工 ART	体育 P.E.	4


THREE...
4-3
ONE...
TWO...
SMACK
FOUR...


ALL RIGHT! LET'S SHOOT FOR TEN!
CLASS ISN'T OVER UNTIL WE MAKE IT TO TEN!
IT WASN'T ME!
DID YOU TRIP?
AWW... MAN...

GWA HA HA HA! HERE WE GO!
WHAA?!

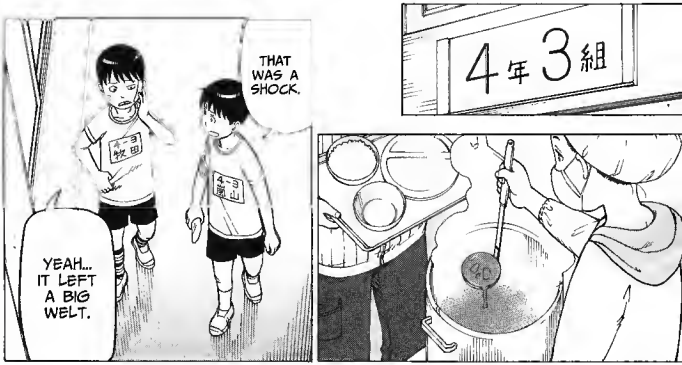


SHIRTS: TOBAWA, NAKAMURA, TAKABE

SHIRTS: MORINAGA, MAKITA

SHIRTS: OZAKI, GISHI, AIHARA

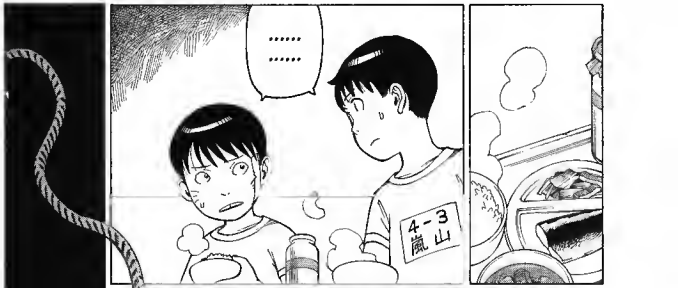
SHIRTS: (MIDDLE) DOUMOTO, MAKITA, (RIGHT) ARASHIYAMA, AIHARA



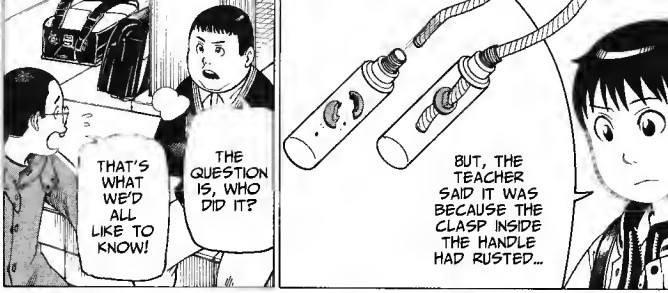
YEAH. WHY?
BEFORE I GOT IT THIS MORNING, YOU DREW UP THROUGH HERE, RIGHT, MAKKI?!
LOOK AT THIS!
NOTE BOOK
TELL ME AL-READY!
WHAT?
I KNEW IT...
kill everyone with a long rope
ON THE NEXT PAGE...

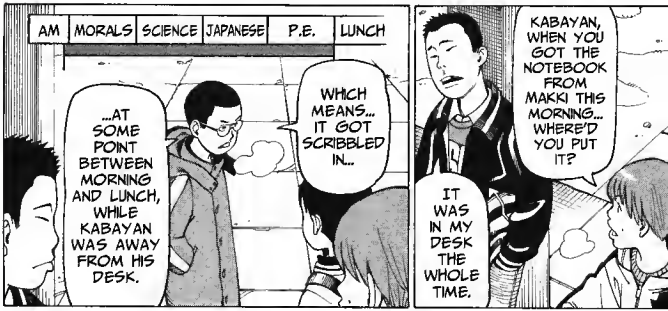
I THOUGHT I'D DO A CARD WHILE PEOPLE WERE GETTING THEIR TRAYS, BUT WHEN I OPENED IT, THIS WAS THERE.
WHAT THE HECK?!
4-3 山
4-3 牧田

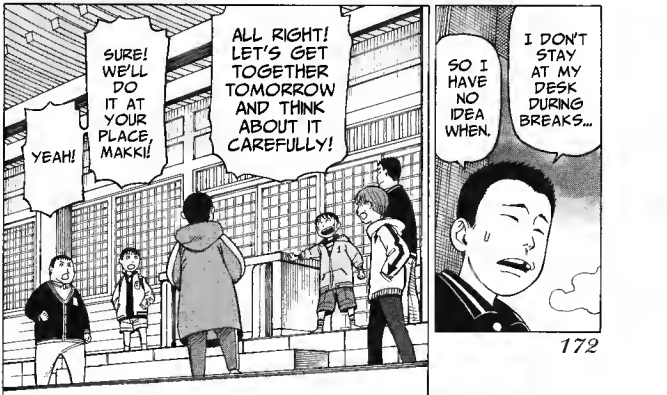
HURRY UP AND GET TO YOUR SEATS, YOU GUYS!
友達
4-3 嵐山


.....
.....
4-3 嵐山

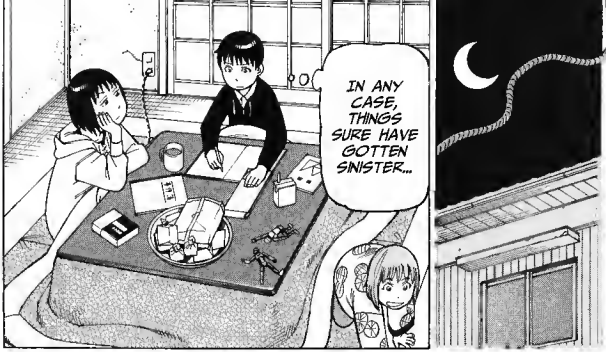
"KILL EVERYONE WITH A LONG ROPE"...
ARE YOU SURE NONE OF YOU GUYS WROTE THAT?
WE ALREADY TOLD YOU, NO!
I WONDER IF "EVERY-ONE" MEANS THE FIVE OF US.
YOU FORGOT TO ADD YOURSELF. THERE ARE SIX OF US, DUMMY.
"A LONG ROPE"...
THAT COULD MEAN THE LONG JUMP ROPE IN GYM CLASS.
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT, TOO!
SO THE ONE WHO CUT THE ROPE...
...IS THE SAME JERK WHO SCRIB-BLED IN THE NOTE-BOOK?!

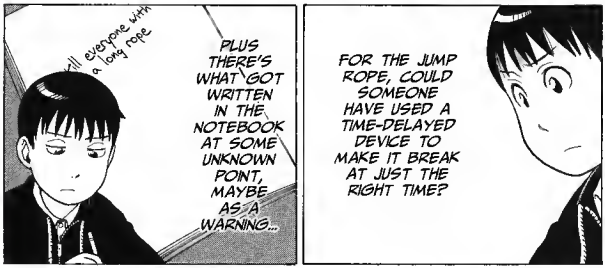

THAT'S WHAT WE'D ALL LIKE TO KNOW!
THE QUESTION IS, WHO DID IT?
BUT, THE TEACHER SAID IT WAS BECAUSE THE CLASP INSIDE THE HANDLE HAD RUSTED...

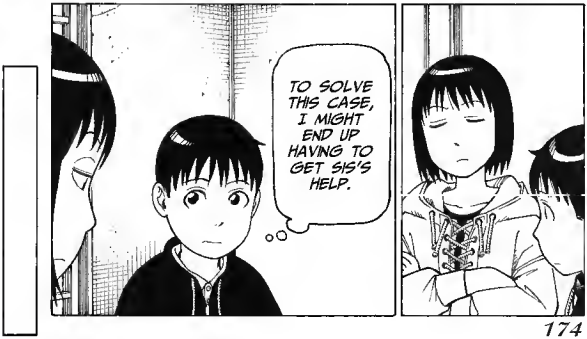

AM
MORALS
SCIENCE
JAPANESE
P.E.
LUNCH
...AT SOME POINT BETWEEN MORNING AND LUNCH, WHILE KABAYAN WAS AWAY FROM HIS DESK.
WHICH MEANS... IT GOT SCRIBBLED IN...
KABAYAN, WHEN YOU GOT THE NOTEBOOK FROM MAKKI THIS MORNING... WHERE'D YOU PUT IT?
IT WAS IN MY DESK THE WHOLE TIME.


ALL RIGHT! LET'S GET TOGETHER TOMORROW AND THINK ABOUT IT CAREFULLY!
SURE! WE'LL DO IT AT YOUR PLACE, MAKKI!
YEAH!
I DON'T STAY AT MY DESK DURING BREAKS...
SO I HAVE NO IDEA WHEN.

HUH?
E-EBI-CHAN, WHY ARE YOU IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE?
ISE-SAKI-SAN...
MY CLUB FINISHED EARLY TODAY, SO I WAITED HERE, THINKING I COULD PLAY WITH YOU, TAKERU-KUN.
OH... I WAS AT THE SHRINE WITH THE GUYS...
BUT SINCE YOU'RE LATE, IT'S ALREADY TIME TO GO HOME!
I'M OFF!
SOR-RY...

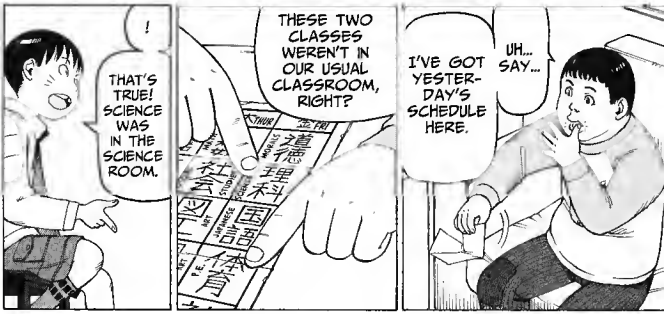

IN ANY CASE, THINGS SURE HAVE GOTTEN SINISTER...


FOR THE JUMP ROPE, COULD SOMEONE HAVE USED A TIME-DELAYED DEVICE TO MAKE IT BREAK AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME?
PLUS THERE'S WHAT GOT WRITTEN IN THE NOTEBOOK AT SOME UNKNOWN POINT, MAYBE AS A WARNING...
All everyone with a long rope


TO SOLVE THIS CASE, I MIGHT END UP HAVING TO GET SIS'S HELP.

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT SOME MORE.
MAKITA
CAN PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE NOTE-BOOK...
...BE TAKEN OFF THE LIST OF SUS-PECTS?
BUT DOESN'T ALMOST EVERYBODY IN OUR CLASS KNOW ABOUT IT?
GOOD POINT.
SOME GUYS ARE EVEN DOING THEIR OWN.
YEAH, LIKE DOU-MOTO AND HIS FRIENDS.

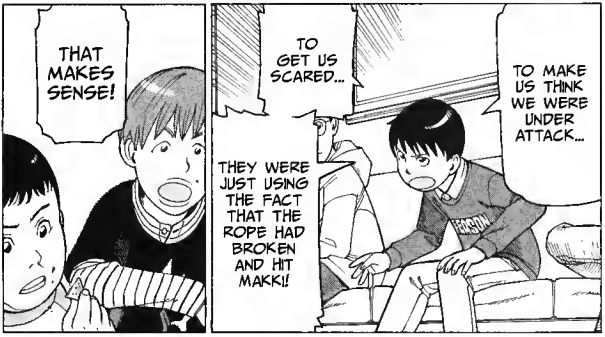
NO WAY!
THAT JERK ONCE STOLE MY VIDEO GAME!
HEY, WHY NOT? HE'S GOOD AT DRAWING.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, HANMURA HITOSHI WAS WANTING TO JOIN OUR GROUP.

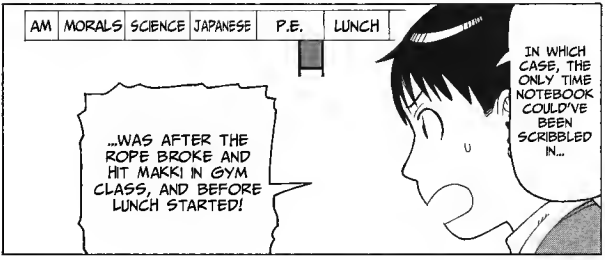

!
THAT'S TRUE! SCIENCE WAS IN THE SCIENCE ROOM.
THESE TWO CLASSES WEREN'T IN OUR USUAL CLASSROOM, RIGHT?
I'VE GOT YESTER-DAY'S SCHEDULE HERE.
UH... SAY...

OH, YEAH! WHO WAS IT?!
THERE WAS A GIRL WHO WENT TO THE INFIRMARY DURING SCIENCE!
AT THAT TIME, SOMEONE COULD'VE GONE TO THE CLASSROOM AND SCRIBBLED IN THE NOTEBOOK WITHOUT BEING SEEN!

ASSUMING BOTH OF THEM ARE CULPRITS, ONE COULD'VE SCRIBBLED IN THE NOTEBOOK IN THE CLASSROOM...
...WHILE THE OTHER RIGGED THE JUMP ROPE!
KURITA-SAN... AND AIHARA-SAN WENT ALONG AS THE HEALTH AIDE!
CHILL
HMM...
IT DOESN'T SEEM QUITE RIGHT... IT'S TOO UNLIKELY FOR THE ROPE TO HAVE GOTTEN RIGGED.
REDSON
YOU HAVE TO THINK BACK-WARDS, TO TURN THINGS AROUND.
OH, TRUE.
I MEAN, IT WASN'T UNTIL AFTER GYM CLASS STARTED THAT WE EVEN GOT TOLD, "TODAY WE'RE USING THE BIG JUMP ROPE."
I THINK IT REALLY DID BREAK NATURALLY.
AND THEN IT JUST HAPPENED TO HIT MAKKI...

...THE CULPRIT WROTE THAT IN OUR NOTE-BOOK!
BECAUSE THE ROPE JUST HAPPENED TO HIT MAKKI...
REASON
THAT'S IT! IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND!


THAT MAKES SENSE!
TO GET US SCARED...
THEY WERE JUST USING THE FACT THAT THE ROPE HAD BROKEN AND HIT MAKKI!
TO MAKE US THINK WE WERE UNDER ATTACK...


AM
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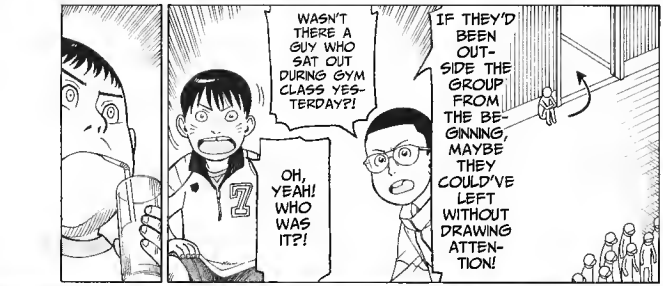
SCIENCE
JAPANESE
P.E.
LUNCH
...WAS AFTER THE ROPE BROKE AND HIT MAKKI IN GYM CLASS, AND BEFORE LUNCH STARTED!
IN WHICH CASE, THE ONLY TIME NOTEBOOK COULD'VE BEEN SCRIBBLED IN...

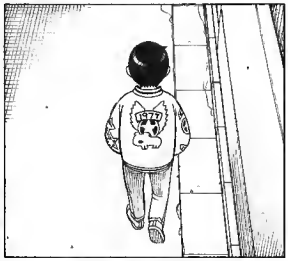
WOW!!
THAT REALLY NARROWS IT DOWN!
BUT... NO MATTER HOW QUIETLY THEY MOVED...
...DON'T YOU THINK SOMEONE WOULD NOTICE THEM LEAVING THE REST OF THE GROUP?


IF THEY'D BEEN OUTSIDE THE GROUP FROM THE BEGINNING, MAYBE THEY COULD'VE LEFT WITHOUT DRAWING ATTENTION!
WASN'T THERE A GUY WHO SAT OUT DURING GYM CLASS YESTERDAY?!
OH, YEAH! WHO WAS IT?!

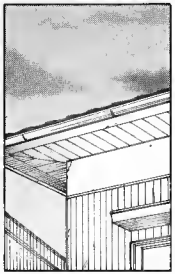
HANMURAKUN!
THAT JERK! THIS MUST BE PAYBACK FOR NOT LETTING HIM JOIN US!
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS HIS OWN FAULT FOR STEALING MY GAME IN THE FIRST PLACE!

YEAH!!
NEXT TIME WE'RE AT SCHOOL, LET'S COMPARE HANMURA'S HANDWRITING WITH THE SCRIBBLING!
I KNOW!
HOLD ON! WE CAN'T BE CERTAIN THAT IT'S HANMURA-KUN YET... NOT WITHOUT ANY EVIDENCE!

WAS THIS REALLY A GOOD IDEA? NOW WE'RE ALL SUSPICIOUS OF FRIENDS FROM CLASS...



I'LL TRY OUT MY REASONING ON SIS.
REASON



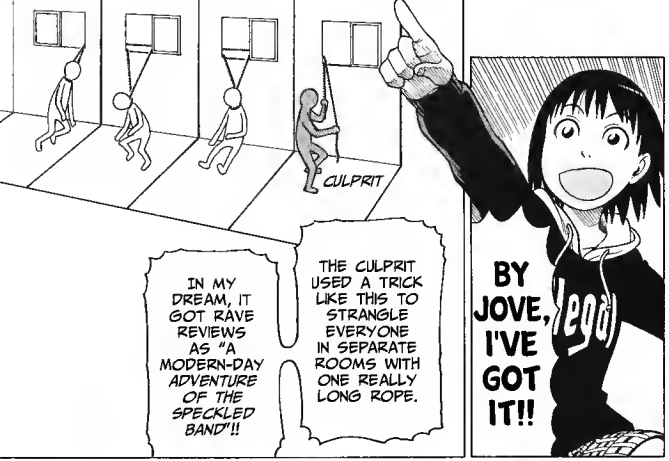
HEY, SIS.
SORRY TO BUG YOU WHEN YOU'RE CONCENTRATING, BUT...
HM?
I'M NOT CONCENTRATING. I'VE JUST BEEN TRYING TO REMEMBER SOMETHING I FORGOT...
LAST SUNDAY WHILE I WAS NAPPING, I HAD A DREAM WHERE I READ AN AWESOME MYSTERY NOVEL!
SO... WHEN I WOKE UP, I WAS EXCITED! IF I'D BEEN DREAMING, THAT MEANT THE NOVEL I READ IN THE DREAM HAD BEEN MY OWN IDEA!
BOLT UPRIGHT
I QUICKLY SCRIBBLED SOMETHING IN MY NOTEBOOK...
BUT NOW I CAN'T FIND IT ANYWHERE!
WEIRD.
I'M SO SURE I WROTE IT DOWN, TOO...
AND SO NOW I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM THAT DREAM!
UGH...
IF I COULD ONLY REMEMBER, THAT AWESOME NOVEL WOULD BE ALL MINE!

NOTEBOOK · CASEBOOK

ME...
SO... WHO HAD IT LAST SUNDAY?
THE NOTE-BOOK WAS SHARED BY SIX PEOPLE.
MUTTER
BACK...
MUTTER
BACK...
BACK-WARDS...

...WAS IN THE NOTE-BOOK!
NOTE BOOK
THE "TIME-DELAYED DEVICE"...

...KILL EVERY-ONE WITH A LONG ROPE"?
DID YOU WRITE...
SAY...
REASON


CULPRIT
BY JOVE, I'VE GOT IT!!
THE CULPRIT USED A TRICK LIKE THIS TO STRANGLE EVERYONE IN SEPARATE ROOMS WITH ONE REALLY LONG Rope.
IN MY DREAM, IT GOT RAVE REVIEWS AS "A MODERN-DAY ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND"!!

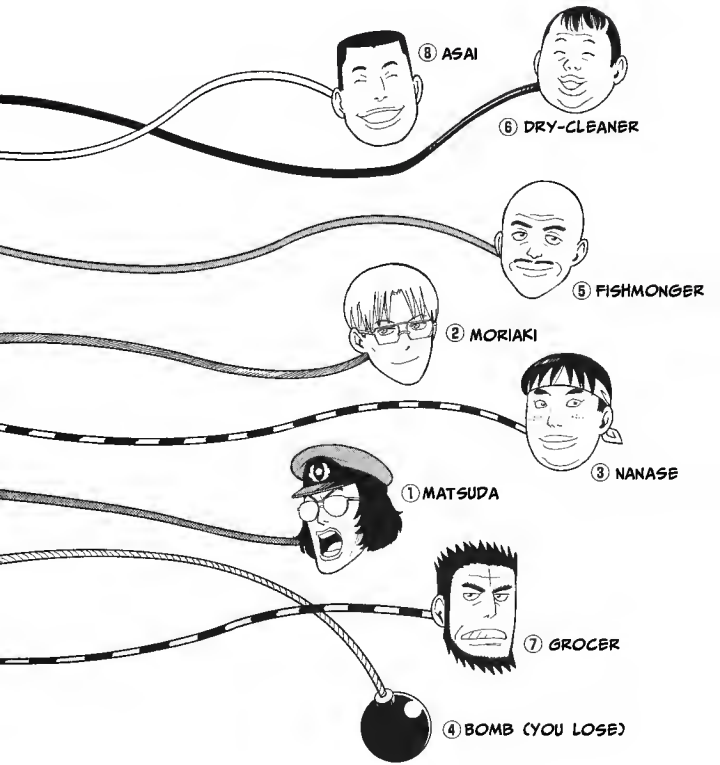
WHEN SIS HAD JUST WOKEN UP FROM HER NAP, SHE HAPPENED TO SCRIBBLE IN OUR NOTEBOOK THAT WAS LYING ON TOP OF THE KOTATSU.
BUT NOW THAT I REMEMBER, IT WASN'T ALL THAT GOOD OF A PLOT!
...HER SCRIBBLE WAS ON A PAGE SEVERAL BLANK PAGES AFTER OUR STUFF...
BECAUSE SHE OPENED IT TO SOME RANDOM PAGE...
NOTE BOOK

kill everyone with a long rope
AND IT JUST SO HAPPENED THAT, ON THE PAGE AFTER MAKKI'S, WE FOUND SIS'S NOTE!
UNAWARE OF THIS, WE KEPT PASSING THE NOTE-BOOK ALONG...
ON THE DAY HE HAPPENED TO GET HIT BY A ROPE...
WHAT'S WRONG, TAKERU?
WANT TO TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT? WEREN'T YOU ABOUT TO SAY SOMETHING?
UH... YOU SEE...
THANKS TO YOU, WE'RE IN A TOUGH SITUATION, SIS.

AT THIS RATE, HANMURA-KUN WILL BE FALSELY ACCUSED!
WHAT'LL I DO?!
...WHA?
IN FACT, YEAH... SINCE IT'S SO URGENT...
YOU'LL DO THAT?!
REAL-LY?!
...TO EXPLAIN AND APOLO-GIZE, SO...
I... I'VE GOT IT. I'LL MAKE SURE...
...CON-CERNED PARTIES, PLEASE...
GATH-ER ALL...

CHAPTER 89 / END

YOUR DESTINED PARTNER



AFTERWORD

I THINK SOME OF YOU WHO'VE BEEN READING FOR A LONG TIME MAY HAVE VAGUELY NOTICED THIS, BUT THE CHRONOLOGY OF THIS MANGA IS ALL OVER THE PLACE.

KON-SENPAI NOW BEING NERVOUS AROUND TAKERU, WHEN BEFORE SHE'D POKED HIM FAMILIARLY WHILE HE WAS ON A DATE WITH EBI-CHAN, AS WELL AS HOTORI'S HAIR GETTING LONGER AND SHORTER, IS ALL DUE TO THIS. SOREMACHI DEPICTS EVENTS DURING HOTORI'S THREE YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL. BEYOND JUST BEING EPISODIC, I'VE TRIED TO DRAW EACH CHAPTER SO THAT THEY CAN BE READ AS INDEPENDENT STORIES, WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT CHRONOLOGY; BUT I WONDER IF SOMETIMES DETAILS LIKE WHAT I DESCRIBED EARLIER MAKE PEOPLE GO, "HUH?"

WELL, PLEASE READ WITHOUT WORRYING TOO MUCH ABOUT IT. SOMETIME AFTER I'VE COMPLETED SOREMACHI, I THINK I'LL INCLUDE A TIMETABLE IN THE VOLUME'S EXTRA PAGES.

SPECIAL THANKS MORI MASATO

ASSISTANTS OSAKI YUUSUKE AMANATSU YUZU

HELPER ARI